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THE A–Z OF 10 DOWNING STREET

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Life, Death and Legacy

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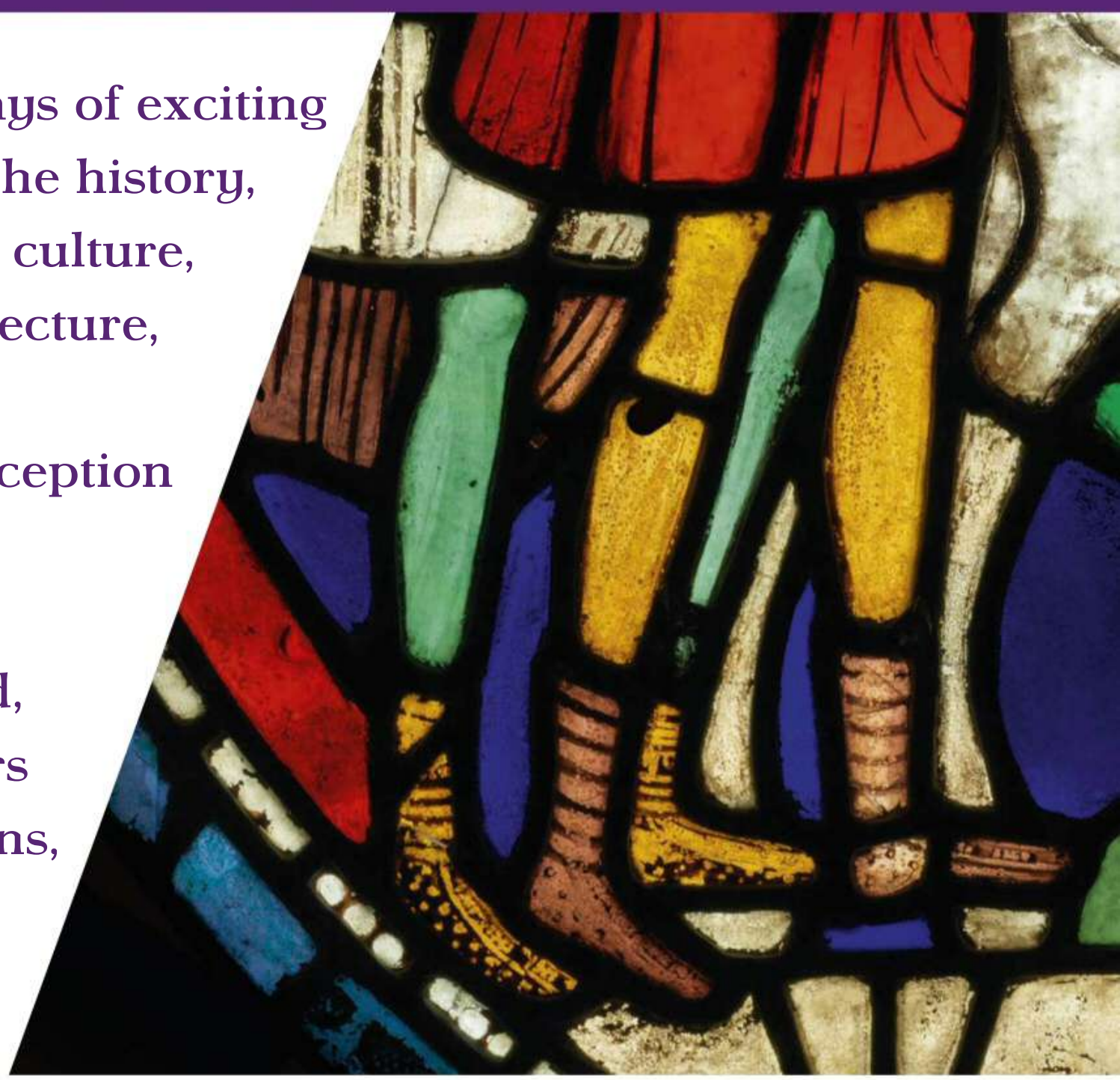

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WELCOME APRIL 2021

Bolshevik leader Vladimir Lenin (*centre*) is one of the most famous faces of the Russian Revolution

The Russian Revolution was one of the most dramatic and explosive periods of the 20th century, a series of events that brought generations of imperial rule tumbling down, overturned the political and social landscape of Russia forever and paved the way for the creation of the world's first constitutionally communist state. For this month's essential guide, **we've teamed up with historian and author Helen Rappaport to explore the events of 1917 and beyond,** and set the record straight on some of the biggest misconceptions of the era. Turn to page 26 to get started.

Elsewhere, as Britain marks 300 years since its first prime minister took office, **we've compiled an A–Z of No. 10 Downing Street**. From mistresses to moggies, take a peek behind the door of one of the nation's most famous addresses (*page 64*).

We also explore how history might have been different **had William the Conqueror and his Norman army not emerged victorious at the battle of Hastings** in 1066 (*page 70*); discover why the crew of sailors on HMS *Bounty* mutinied against their captain in 1789 (*page 16*); examine the circumstances of Agatha Christie's mysterious disappearance (*page 62*); and look at the extreme lengths to which people have gone to stay young and beautiful – **from eating arsenic wafers to drinking radium water** (*page 58*). Plus, we answer some intriguing historical questions, such as why was Louis XIV known as the 'Sun King'? Find out on page 77.

Finally, don't forget to take advantage of **this month's great subscription offer,** which could see you benefit from 40 per cent off the shop price! The full details can be found by turning to page 24.

Until next month, stay safe.

Charlotte Hodgman
Editor

THIS MONTH'S BIG NUMBERS

103
The number of languages the works of crime writer Agatha Christie have been translated into

6
The number of places across the world named St Kilda, despite there being no saint of that name

84
The percentage of the Russian population who were peasants, according to the 1897 census

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CONTENTS APRIL 2021

YOUR ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO THE

RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

28 Timeline
An overview of the bitter protests, brutal murders and social upheaval that led to the birth of the USSR

30 The gathering storm
The seeds of discontent and revolution were apparent in Russia long before the events of 1917

34 Myths of the Russian Revolution
Helen Rappaport debunks six common misconceptions about revolutionary Russia

40 The year that changed everything
What caused the political and social upheaval of 1917?

44 Vladimir Lenin
Discover the story behind the man who led the Bolsheviks to power

45 Death of a dynasty
We revisit the bloody and brutal murders of Nicholas II and his family in July 1918

50 Rivals of the revolution
Meet three very different revolutionary players: Alexander Kerensky, Leon Trotsky and Joseph Stalin

52 How the Bolsheviks seized power
Months of unrest preceded the October Revolution of 1917

55 Conflict within
More bloodshed was to come in the wake of the revolution

56 What came next
The founding and fall of the USSR

▲ The Romanov murders sent shockwaves around the royal houses of Europe, yet none could, or would, save them

FEATURES

58 The price of beauty
Lucy Jane Santos delves into the dangerous history of cosmetics – from X-ray hair removal to arsenic wafers

62 Spotlight on Agatha Christie
A life of mystery and intrigue worthy of Hercule Poirot himself

64 The A–Z of Downing Street
Felicity Day reveals 26 fascinating facts about one of the most famous streets in the world

70 What if... the Normans had lost in 1066?

▲ The pursuit of beauty could have dire consequences

▲ Agatha Christie gave the world Hercule Poirot

GETTY IMAGES X10, ALAMY X3

52

◀ The Bolsheviks seized the Winter Palace and toppled Russia's Provisional Government

44

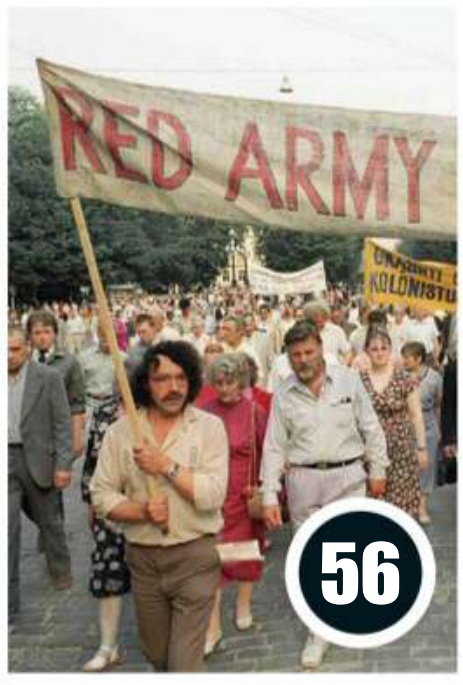
▲ Lenin was a key figure in the Russian Revolution

40

▲ Food shortages were a big factor for revolution

▼ Power struggles were rife in post-revolutionary Russia

50



56

▲ The new USSR would flex its muscles across Europe

EVERY MONTH

6 Snapshots
A golf-playing 'robot' and more

12 What We've Learned This Month
Celtic moustaches, golden tongues and much more

14 My Life In History
Jason Sandy and Nick Stevens, mudlarks on the river Thames

16 This Month In... 1789
William Bligh is cast adrift with 18 men after a mutiny on the *Bounty*

21 In A Nutshell
Jim Crow Laws in the US

73 Ask the Experts
What is a tell-tale compass? What did it mean to 'spend the dollar'? These and more historical questions answered

79 TV, Film & Radio
This month's history entertainment

82 What's On
Five online exhibitions and events

84 Books & Podcasts
The latest historical releases and podcasts

86 Historical Fiction
Kaitlyn Greenidge shares an extract from her recent book, *Libertie*

87 Crossword

88 Letters

89 Next Issue

90 Photo Finish

64

▲ How much do you know about the prime minister's official residence?

70

▲ What if William the Conqueror had been defeated at the battle of Hastings?

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SNAPSHOTS

c1900
A PATH THROUGH THE HOLY LAND

Scores of Christian pilgrims, pictured at the turn of the 20th century, make their way down a winding road towards Jerusalem to celebrate Easter. Although the Covid-19 pandemic has undoubtedly affected plans for 2021, thousands of worshippers from across the globe normally descend upon the city each year to mark Holy Week, spanning Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday itself. One of the most important events takes place on Good Friday, when Christians join processions along the *Via Dolorosa* ('way of suffering'), where Jesus is said to have carried the cross. The route concludes at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, built on the traditional site of his crucifixion and burial.

GETTY IMAGES

SNAPSHOTS

c1930
GETTING INTO THE SWING OF THINGS

A golf-playing 'robot' helps two women improve their swing in a photograph from c1930. Whether or not the contraption truly worked (the picture appears to have been taken on the set of a US comedy named *Love in the Rough*), golf had become a popular pursuit for upper-class American women. During the 'roaring twenties', players such as Edith Cummings – the inspiration behind socialite Jordan Baker in F Scott Fitzgerald's novel *The Great Gatsby* – became major celebrities. However, the sport had first been enjoyed by women as early as the 16th century, with Mary, Queen of Scots (1542–87) thought to be the first recorded female player in history.

GETTY IMAGES

SNAPSHOTS

1952 TIME TO LEARN

Pupils at the Mary E Bennett School for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Los Angeles, attend a lesson in April 1952. The education of deaf children in the US had been mired in controversy for decades, with 'manualism' (teaching using sign language) shunned in favour of 'oralism' (speech and lip-reading). One famous advocate of the latter was Alexander Graham Bell, inventor of the telephone, who coincidentally wrote to the school's founder, Mary E Bennett, in 1913 asserting that "the English language alone should be used as the means of communications and instruction". From the 1960s, however, manualism would be relegitimised thanks to the efforts of deaf activists and linguists such as William Stokoe.

GETTY IMAGES

TRIUMPH

THINGS WE LEARNED THIS MONTH....

RECENT HISTORY HEADLINES THAT CAUGHT OUR EYE

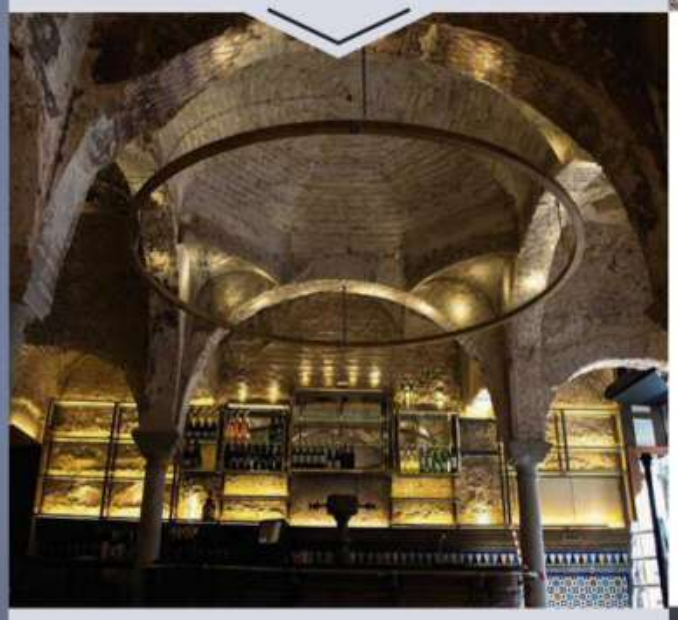
THE CELTS MAY HAVE FAVOURED MOUSTACHES

The addition of carved facial hair on a Celtic figure could be indicative of hair trends in the 1st century AD. The tiny Celtic statue, found during a dig at a late Iron Age settlement on the National Trust's Wimpole Estate in Cambridgeshire, boasts a moustache and short, tidy hair at the front with long hair at the back. The 5cm high figure is thought to represent Cernunnos, the Celtic god of fertility. Here you can see the figure before cleaning (*above*) and afterwards (*right*).

NATIONAL TRUST/OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY EAST/JAMES FAIRBAIRN X1, HIGHWAYS ENGLAND X2, EGYPT MINISTRY OF ANTIQUITIES/SHUTTERSTOCK X1, GETTY IMAGES X2, TOMOS TV/BARNEY ROWE X1

ISLAMIC BATHHOUSE FOUND IN TAPAS BAR

A 12th century Islamic bathhouse (known as a *hammam*) found hidden within a tapas bar in Seville is believed to be one of the most lavishly decorated examples ever discovered on the Iberian peninsula. Almost 90 skylights have been located beneath the bar's ceiling plaster, while intricate Islamic artwork has been revealed behind its walls. Seville was once a capital of the Almohad Caliphate, but became part of the kingdom of Castile in the 13th century. It's thought that the bathhouse was hidden around 100 years ago when the building was initially converted into a hotel.



THE GIFT OF THE GOLDEN TONGUE

A recent discovery of ancient Egyptian mummies has revealed an unusual burial item: the mummies, found in the Taposiris Magna temple in Alexandria, were laid to rest with 'golden tongues' inside their mouths. The gold foil amulets were believed to allow the deceased to talk when they reached the court of Osiris, god of the Underworld, who would then weigh their heart to determine if they were worthy of a blissful afterlife. In total, rock cut tombs holding 16 burials were found though the 2,000 year old mummies themselves were poorly preserved.

UNUSUALLY DECORATED MILLSTONE FOUND

A penis decoration on a rare Romano British millstone has been revealed after the broken artefact was pieced back together by archaeologists. Originally discovered during roadworks in Cambridgeshire, the object is one of only four Romano British millstones that have been found decorated in this way. Phallic symbols were seen as signs of virility and strength in the Roman world, and soldiers would often wear phallus amulets for luck. The fact that the stone bears such an emblem shows that the mill from which it originated was of great importance to the local community.

AD 950

The provenance of jewellery recently found on the Isle of Man by a metal detectorist – placing it in Viking era. Finds included a gold arm ring and a silver brooch.

WAS STONEHENGE ONCE IN WALES?

The remains of one of Britain's largest and oldest stone circles has been discovered in Wales and it could be the original site of Stonehenge. The remains of Waun Mawn in Pembrokeshire's Preseli Hills has the same diameter as the World Heritage Site, and both are aligned with the sunrise during the midsummer solstice. The two circles also share the same rock types. Experts have suggested that the monument may have been moved as the ancient Preseli people migrated if true, this may explain Stonehenge's blue stones, which were transported to Wiltshire from Wales.

“The river Thames is a liquid history book, and every lost object tells you a different story about London”

JASON SANDY X2, NICK STEVENS X2, PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES SCHEME

MAIN: **A carved bone hairpin, discovered by Jason, which has been dated to the period AD 43–100**

INSET: **The skull of an 18th-century girl and a prehistoric megalodon tooth found by Nick, and a boar badge likely worn by a supporter of Richard III, found by John Higginbotham**

Mudlarks

Jason Sandy and Nick Stevens

Nick (*left*) and Jason (*right*) busy scouring the foreshore of the Thames, a short distance from Tower Bridge

WHAT IS MUDLARKING?

NICK STEVENS: Mudlarking is the act of searching for historical artefacts along the exposed foreshore of the river Thames at low tide. In the 19th century, the original Victorian mudlarks scavenged for anything they could sell in order to survive. They were often children, mostly boys, who braved dangerous conditions to find practical items like coal, iron, copper nails and ropes that could be sold to buy food and essentials for themselves and their families.

Today's mudlarks have a passionate interest in London's rich archaeology and history. They have discovered and recovered an incredibly wide range of artefacts, dating from prehistoric to modern times. Many of these finds are on display at the Museum of London, and some have helped change our understanding of the past.

HOW DID YOU FIRST GET INTO MUDLARKING?

JASON SANDY: I live five minutes away from the river Thames in West London, and I often went down to the riverbank when my kids were very small to look for crabs and eels but I never realised you could find ancient artefacts at low tide. I first started mudlarking after watching a TV show called *Thames Treasure Hunters* on the National Geographic Channel.

NS: From a young age growing up in the countryside, I loved fossil hunting, bottle digging and metal detecting. After living in London for many years, I was amazed to discover the pursuit of mudlarking, and living close to the river, I knew I had to get involved.

After tracking down a small group of mudlarks, I began my first trips down to the foreshore in 2008 and eventually became a member of the Society of Thames Mudlarks in 2011. From 2011 to 2013, I appeared in all three series of the History network's *Mud Men*. The programme followed us on our mudlarking adventures and brought our finds back to life.

WHAT HAVE BEEN YOUR MOST EXCITING FINDS TO DATE?

JS: My top find is a carved bone hairpin depicting a Roman woman, which has been dated to AD 43 100. It is now on permanent display in the Roman gallery of the Museum of London. My second favourite find is a 15th century pewter boar badge (similar to the one pictured on the opposite page, found by fellow mudlark John Higginbotham) that was probably worn by a supporter of King Richard III during his coronation in July 1483. I donated the artefact to the King Richard III Visitor Centre in Leicester.

NS: For me, the skull and complete skeleton of an 18th century child; a Mesolithic 'Thames Pick' flint adze (a tool similar to an axe) dating from 8500 4500 BC; a fossilised megalodon shark tooth; and a 17th century traders' token from the infamous Pudding Lane, where the Great Fire of London started in 1666.

WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED ABOUT LONDON THROUGH MUDLARKING?

JS: As an American who moved to London in 2007, I have learned everything I know about British history from the river Thames. Each artefact I find leads me on a new journey of discovery. The Thames is a liquid history book, and every lost object tells you a different story about London and its inhabitants over the past 2,000 years.

NS: Through the artefacts that I and other mudlarks have found, I have gained a wider understanding about London and its inhabitants. Many of the finds we make are personal, everyday items, and these often reflect different styles and fashions throughout the ages. Together, they paint a picture of life since the dawn of time.

Many of our finds are recorded on the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) database. This resource is used as an aid for further research and learning, and is available to everyone from the enthusiast to the academic at *finds.org.uk*.

HOW CAN PEOPLE GET INVOLVED IN MUDLARKING THEMSELVES?

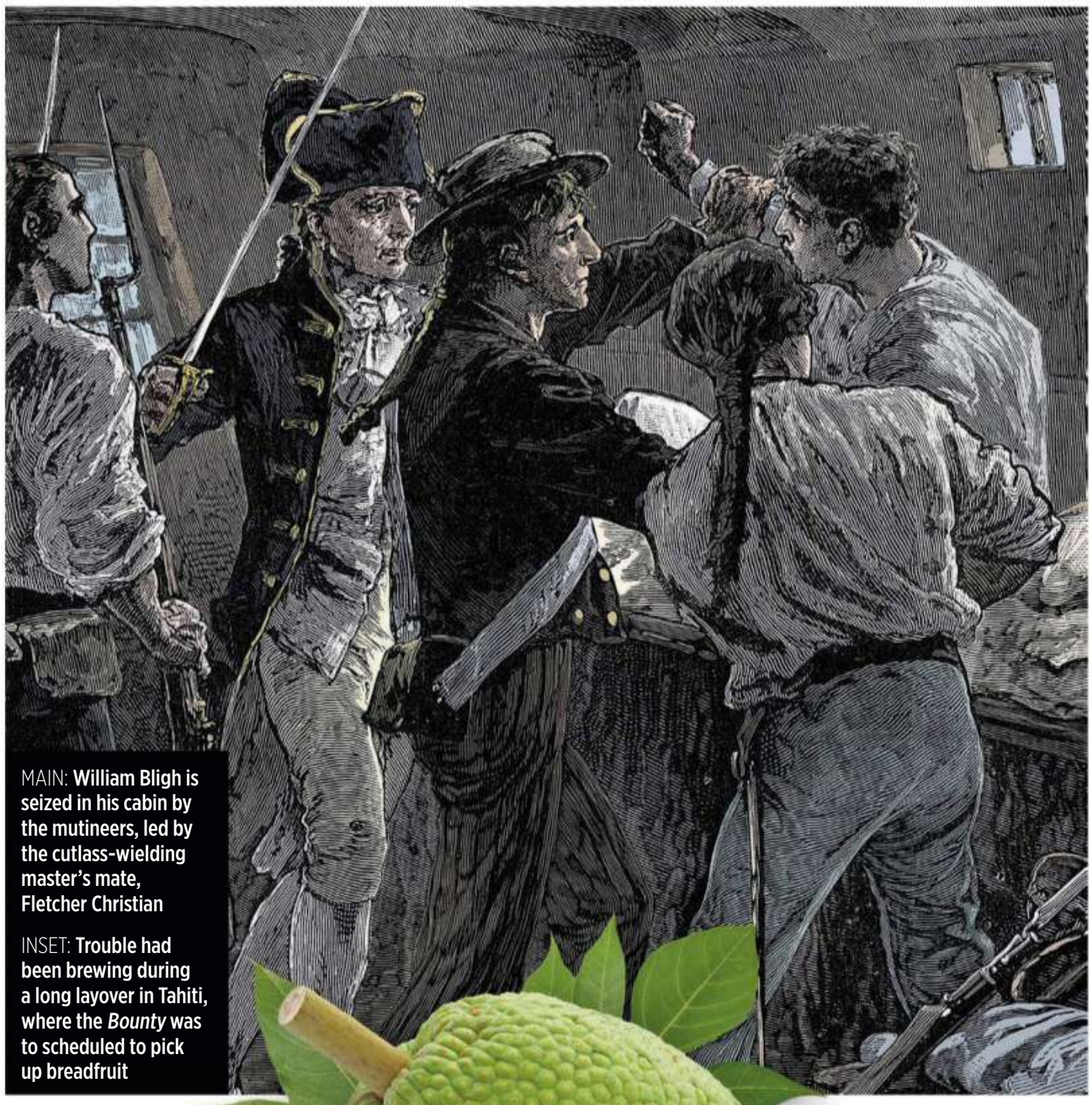
JS: The Thames Discovery Programme and Thames Explorer Trust offer guided tours of the foreshore in London. These are an excellent introduction to mudlarking and the archaeology along the river Thames.

To go mudlarking in London, though, you must have a licence from the Port of London Authority. Objects over 300 years old must also be reported to the Museum of London for recording on the PAS database.

JASON SANDY AND NICK STEVENS are members of the Society of Thames Mudlarks and co-authors of the book *Thames Mudlarking: Searching for London's Lost Treasures* (Shire Publications, 2021)

Mutiny on the Bounty

Words: Emma Slattery Wiliams



MAIN: **William Bligh is seized in his cabin by the mutineers, led by the cutlass-wielding master's mate, Fletcher Christian**

INSET: **Trouble had been brewing during a long layover in Tahiti, where the *Bounty* was to scheduled to pick up breadfruit**

GETTY IMAGES X5

After 23 days out at sea, Commanding Lieutenant William Bligh of HMS *Bounty* was woken up on 28 April 1789 by the master's mate, Fletcher Christian, who was brandishing a cutlass.

Forcibly removed from command, Bligh and 18 other loyal sailors were committed to a 7m long open boat that was only built to hold 15 men and looked like it would sink any second. Four cutlasses, a compass, a quadrant and a small amount of wine, rum, bread and pork were all they were given, before being left to fend for themselves in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. This act the notorious mutiny on the *Bounty* was shocking enough, but the real surprise would be that Bligh would make a remarkable journey across thousands of miles and find safe harbour.

What had led to this insurrection? The *Bounty*, a British merchant vessel, had left England less than two years earlier and was sailing to the West Indies from Tahiti to transport breadfruit plants – a cheap source of food intended to feed enslaved people when the crew mutinied. But the crew had remained at Tahiti for five months, as they had arrived too early to harvest the breadfruit. The sailors developed relationships with local women and enjoyed the tropical climate and beautiful surrounds. Some even got Polynesian tattoos. And being so long on land made life at sea all the more difficult when the *Bounty* finally set sail with her cargo. Discipline was harder to maintain and soon it broke down completely.

It's not clear exactly what sparked the mutiny, but tensions between Christian and Bligh had been bubbling away since they left Britain. Bligh was known for having a short temper and frequently insulted his sailors; there were also occasions when he had punished the whole crew for the crimes of one man.

Christian and Bligh had sailed together before and were friends, yet it seems Christian had finally had enough of Bligh's constant belittling and his tendency to humiliate him in front of the crew.

The coup was bloodless, and even though there were more men who supported Bligh among the crew than there were mutineers, the captain was still overpowered and forced into the open boat. There were two sailors who neither participated in the mutiny, nor tried to stop it, and four men who supported Bligh and who had to be held back from joining the seemingly doomed captain and the 18 men with him. Their motives may not have been entirely altruistic; mutineers were considered among the worst type of criminals in Britain.

Bligh and his fellow castaways travelled more than 3,500 nautical miles,

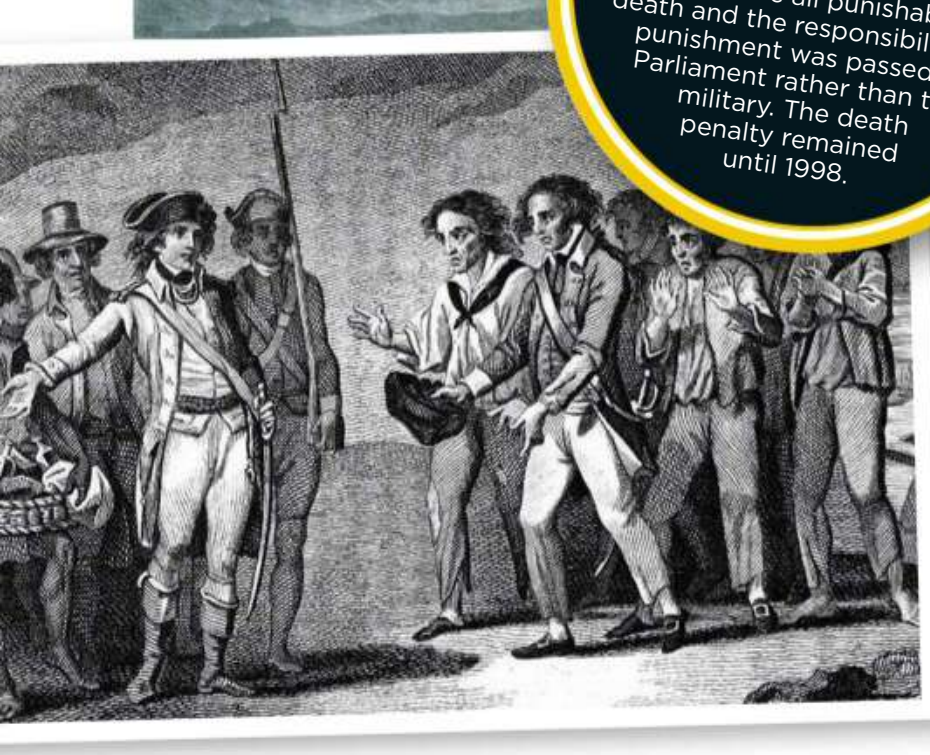
MAIN: **Bligh and 18 loyal crewmen were set adrift in an open boat without charts and few supplies**

INSET: **HMS *Bounty* was rated as a cutter – a small warship**

DID YOU KNOW?

DEATH TO TRAITORS

Since the first Mutiny Act in 1689, mutiny, desertion and sedition were all punishable by death and the responsibility of punishment was passed to Parliament rather than the military. The death penalty remained until 1998.



The Dutch settlers of Timor welcome Bligh and the survivors

eventually reaching the island of Timor in Southeast Asia, and making it back to England to report what had happened. The journey home was far from easy. They had no charts and had to work hard to stop the boat from capsizing in the wild ocean. With no shelter, they were constantly wet, sunburnt and windburnt.

BLIGH AND DRY

Bligh was just seven when he had begun his seafaring career as a captain's servant, and he later served under both Captain James Cook and Admiral Horatio Nelson. Bligh was known to be a brilliant navigator, but no one could have guessed that he would successfully make it to Timor it was assumed those left adrift would became castaways in Tonga, which was just 30 miles from where the *Bounty* abandoned them.

> "It was assumed those left adrift would became castaways in Tonga, just 30 miles from where the *Bounty* abandoned them"

Their first stop, 30 miles away, was a tiny island called Tofua. The inhabitants of the island attacked the group of men, killing the quartermaster John Norton, and they were forced to return to the sea.

Next, they headed towards northern Australia and on the way made the first European passage through the islands of Fiji. Wary of reports of cannibalism, though, Bligh decided against going ashore. On 29 May, the men reached an island off the coast of Australia and named it Restoration Island in honour of the food they found there and it being the anniversary of Charles II's restoration to the throne in 1660.

Another mutiny almost broke out here when Bligh had a disagreement with carpenter William Purcell. Bligh was forced to pull a cutlass on the rebellious carpenter and eventually peace was restored. The incident was not forgotten, though, and once back in England, Bligh brought charges of misconduct against Purcell, who was reprimanded.

Some 47 days after leaving Tofua, the men reached the Dutch settlement of Coupang in Timor. Their epic journey had taken its toll with many too weak to walk; botanist David Nelson succumbed to a fatal fever.

Bligh lost no time in his mission to return to England, however, and had soon bought HMS *Resource*, a schooner, leaving Coupang on 20 August. On 1 October, the now 16 men finally arrived

THIS MONTH... 1789

ANNIVERSARIES THAT HAVE MADE HISTORY

Salvaged copper and nails from the *Bounty*; the mutineers burned the ship in a bid to avoid discovery

A plaque commemorates the landing of the *Bounty* at Pitcairn Island

in Batavia, a major Dutch East Indies port (now known as Jakarta), and Bligh left for England with his clerk and a servant. Four of the remaining crew died in Batavia or on their way back to England.

A MUTINEER'S LIFE FOR ME

While Bligh and his men were struggling for survival, the *Bounty* mutineers had returned to Tahiti and were living a life of relative comfort. Concerned that they would be found by the Royal Navy, Fletcher and eight other crew members, along with some Tahitians, travelled to the remote Pitcairn Island and settled there. They then burned the *Bounty* to stop it from being discovered. Descendants of the mutineers still live there today; the main island's capital, Adamstown, is named after the last surviving mutineer, John Adams, who died in 1829.

Bligh was cleared of blame for losing the *Bounty*, and HMS *Pandora* was sent from England to find the mutineers. Only 10 were brought back to England four of them were acquitted, three pardoned and three hanged. Fletcher Christian wasn't among them: he is believed to have married a Tahitian woman on Pitcairn Island and had three children. He's thought to have died here, though there is a legend that he faked his death and returned to England.

> "Only 10 mutineers were brought back to England – four were acquitted, three pardoned and three hanged"

Bligh was not in England to see justice administered – he'd been sent on another mission to gather breadfruit in Tahiti before the trial had finished. However, on his return to England he discovered that the testimonies of the mutineers had tainted his reputation and he found himself unemployed for 18 months.

Bligh later went on to have a successful naval career (he became a vice-admiral

Some suspect that mutiny leader Fletcher Christian may have quietly returned to England

GETTY IMAGES X6, ALAMY X1

A Pitcairn Islander stands beside the grave of John Adams, the last survivor of the original *Bounty* mutineers

in 1814), but the *Bounty* would not be the only mutiny under his command. Appointed Governor of New South Wales in 1805, his strict disciplinarian nature caused discontentment once again. This time it was his decision to prevent the importation of liquor, which led to the so-called Rum Rebellion, in 1808. The military deposed him and placed him under temporary house arrest. He would return to England in 1810.

Bligh died in 1817. His remarkable life saw him lauded along with naval heroes such as Cook and Nelson. But in fiction he has often been painted as the villain of the episode. The story of the mutiny has prevailed in folklore and is the subject of no fewer than five feature films. In arguably the most famous of these, *Mutiny on the Bounty* (1935), Bligh is shown as a tyrant and Christian a rebellious hero.

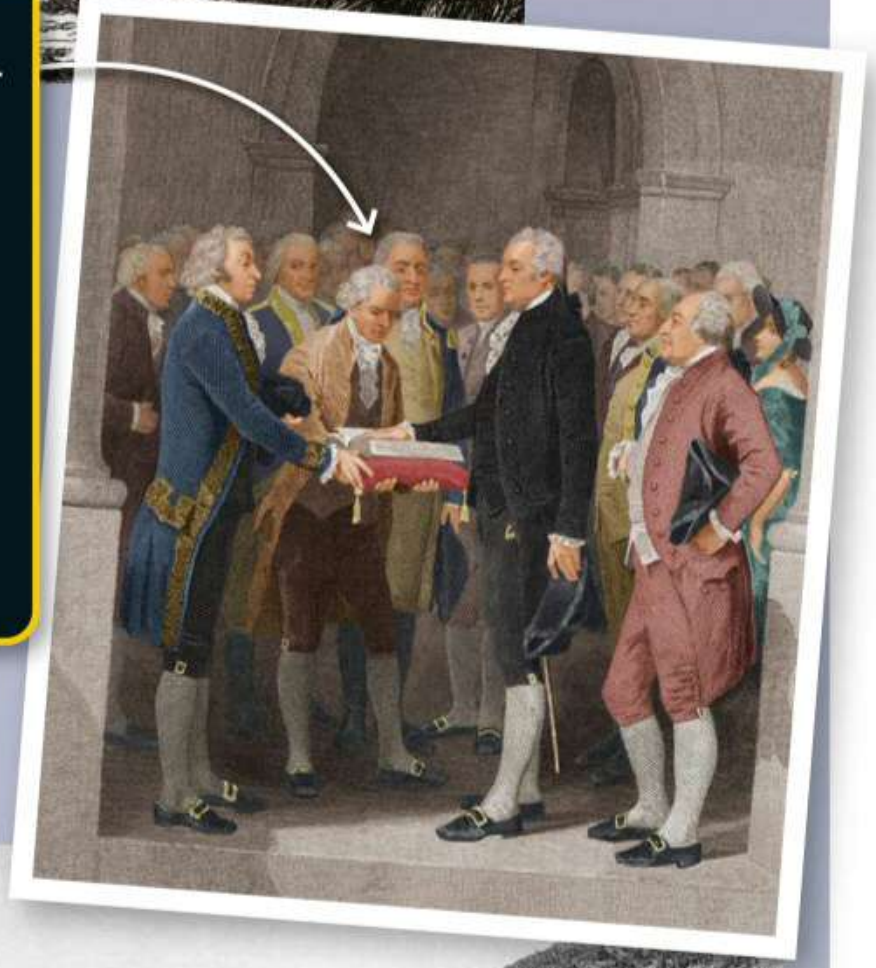
APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

A LOOK BACK AT THREE OTHER EVENTS THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN APRIL THROUGHOUT HISTORY

April 1318

THE SCOTS CAPTURE BERWICK

During the First War of Scottish Independence, Scottish troops capture Berwick-upon-Tweed – a significant feat, as the town had been controlled by the English for two decades. Berwick would pass from between English and Scottish control several times more, before finally becoming part of England in 1482.



30 April 1789

WASHINGTON IS INAUGURATED AS THE FIRST US PRESIDENT

The newly independent United States inaugurates its first president, George Washington, in New York. During the American Revolutionary War, Washington had distinguished himself as the commander of the Continental Army and played a key role in the adoption of the Constitution. He served as president for two terms and is popularly known as the Father of his Country.

25 April 1915

THE BATTLE OF GALLIPOLI

After a failed attack by British and French ships on the Dardanelles Strait during World War I, a major Allied land invasion takes place against the Ottoman empire on the Gallipoli peninsula, in modern-day Turkey. The Allies met with fierce resistance and the campaign was a failure, with New Zealand and Australia seeing more than 11,000 fatalities. Every year, on 25 April, ANZAC Day commemorates those lost by both nations at Gallipoli.

“I am an optimist”

“Never has a New Year been welcomed by so many as 2021”

I AM AN OPTIMIST
I Am An Optimist
Churchill expressed this sentiment in a speech at the Lord Mayor's Banquet at Guildhall on 9 November 1954 (in a speech where he repeated the maxim "All will be well").
"For myself I am an optimist – it does not seem to be much use being anything else – and I cannot believe the human race will not find its way through the problems that confront it".
He stepped down as prime minister five months later and remained a member of parliament until his retirement, aged 89, at the 1964 General Election.

The Churchill Heritage Conway Stewart pen range

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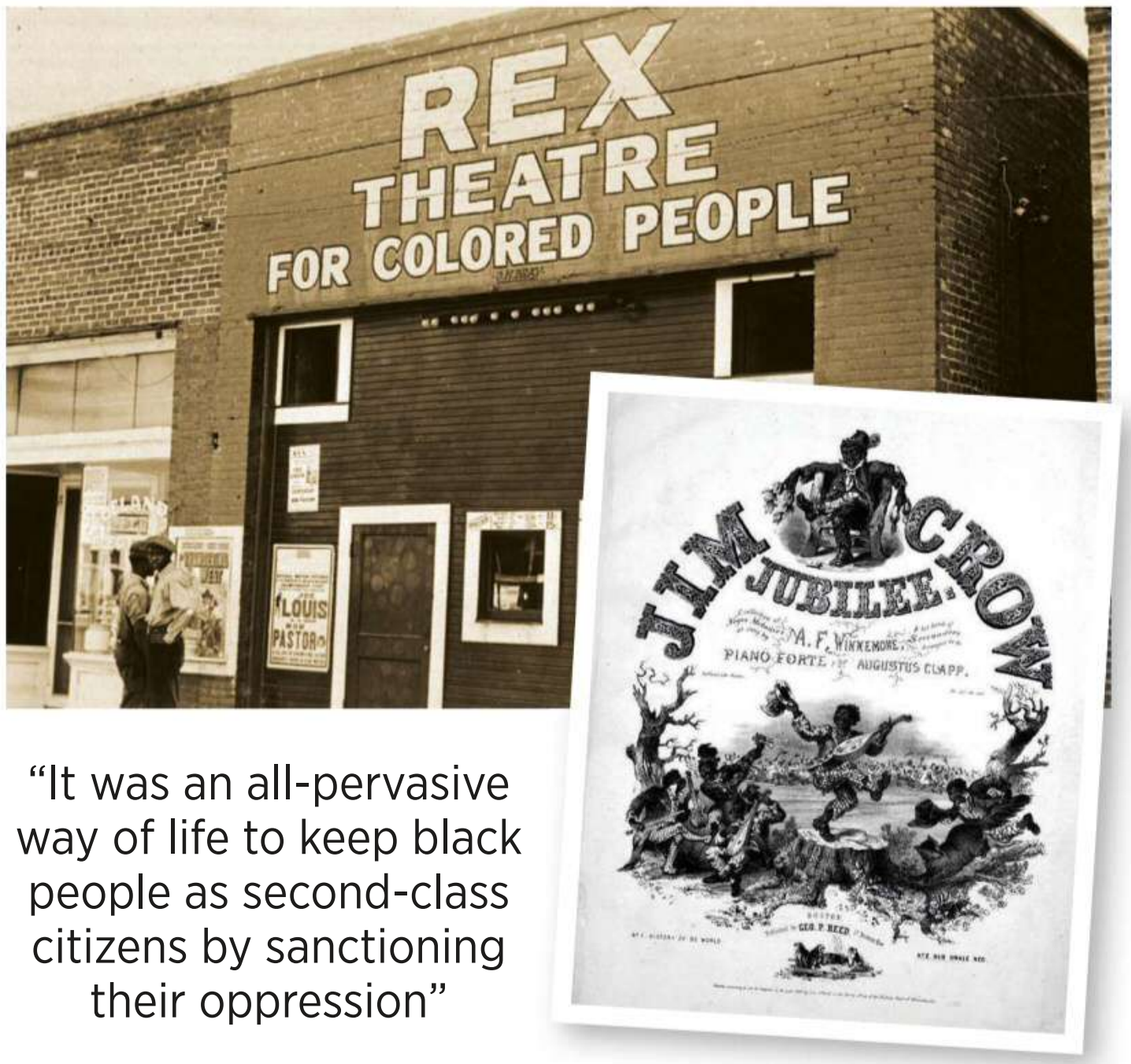
Jim Crow in the United States

Words: Jonny Wilkes



MAIN: **A black cinema in Mississippi, 1939. The Jim Crow laws dominated virtually every facet of life**

INSET: **TD Rice's 'Jump Jim Crow' spawned a whole genre of songs mocking black people, as shown by this 1847 sheet music collection**

GETTY IMAGES X2

WHO OR WHAT WAS JIM CROW?

Jim Crow was the name given to the system of racial segregation in the US predominantly in the South but holding influence all over the country from the period immediately after the American Civil War (the end of the Reconstruction era) to the civil rights movement of the 1960s.

With 'separate but equal' as the guiding doctrine, state and local laws restricted black rights. Black people were denied the vote; educational, economic and vocational opportunities; and basic human dignities. Yet Jim Crow was more than that: it was an all pervasive way of life to keep African American people as second class citizens by sanctioning and normalising their oppression in a post slavery world, and enforcing that with the constant threat of the law, intimidation, violence and death.

WAS THERE A REAL PERSON CALLED JIM CROW?

No, Jim Crow got its name from a minstrel routine performed in 1820s and '30s New York by white actor Thomas Dartmouth 'Daddy' Rice. In blackface, achieved with burnt cork, he played a pejorative stereotype of a buffoonish black man and would sing a ditty called 'Jump Jim Crow'. While not the first minstrel show, Rice was hugely popular in the US and even went on tours to Britain and Ireland, which went a long way in seeing Jim Crow evolve into an epithet for all black people and then the later system of segregation.

WHEN WERE JIM CROW LAWS INTRODUCED? AND WERE THEY THE SAME AS THE 'BLACK CODES'?

By the end of 1865, the war was over and the 13th Amendment had abolished slavery. But as the process of rebuilding the nation and integrating up to 4 million former enslaved people began, the defeated states of the Confederacy imposed 'Black Codes': laws intended to suppress newly freed African American people by rigidly controlling their work, movement and living conditions. It was slavery by another name.

> "It was an all-pervasive way of life to keep black people as second-class citizens by sanctioning their oppression"

The Jim Crow laws first came about around a decade later, in 1877. Following years of Reconstruction when the South was under military occupation and forced to accept the Republican controlled Congress's moves to establish the rights of African American people the southern legislatures were again firmly in the hands of white Democrats. They immediately set about passing laws to segregate white and black people in society, whether on trains or in schools.

WHAT ABOUT THE 14TH AND 15TH AMENDMENTS?

The 14th Amendment, adopted in 1868, granted citizenship and protection

IN A NUTSHELL

YOUR BRIEF EXPLAINER TO HISTORY'S HOT TOPICS

of equal rights to "all persons born or naturalized in the United States", while the 15th Amendment, in 1870, guaranteed the right to vote could not be denied on the basis of race or colour.

They had been ratified during Reconstruction, as had the Civil Rights Act of 1875, which provided for equal treatment of African American people in public accommodations and transportation. Black men also became politically active as they voted for the first time and were even elected to office, from local districts to the first black senator, Hiram Revels, elected in 1870.

But there was fierce resistance from white southerners, holding on to their fundamental belief that white people were superior to black people. The Civil Rights Cases of 1883 declared the 1875 act unconstitutional and state legislatures devised numerous ways to get around the 15th Amendment and prevent black men from exercising their right to vote.

HOW WERE BLACK PEOPLE DISENFRANCHISED?

Individual states introduced a host of restrictions and requirements, including paying a poll tax or passing literacy tests, both of which were aimed at keeping African American people from registering, as they were chiefly poor and illiterate labourers. As they similarly stopped poor white men from casting a ballot, though, 'grandfather clauses' allowed anyone whose ancestor had been a voter before the Civil War to forego the fee or test. This could not apply to any black men as their ancestors were enslaved people.

These measures saw the proportion of black voters in the South plummet from 90 per cent during the Reconstruction era to three per cent by 1940. Of course, it was not only the legal requirements that prevented black men from voting. Another brutally efficient method of controlling the black population was through fear.

WHEN WAS THE KU KLUX KLAN FORMED?

A number of white supremacist groups emerged, committed to using intimidation and violence to terrorise black communities in the South. Among them were the more openly operating White League and the Red Shirts, while the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) was an underground organisation. It was formed right after the end of the Civil War by Confederate veterans in Tennessee.

The KKK would attack and kill African American people and destroy their homes, but the act of violence that came to encapsulate the horrors of Jim Crow was lynching a public demonstration of the threat faced by black communities every day. According to the Tuskegee Institute, a total of 4,743 people were lynched between the start of reliable record keeping in 1882 and 1968 72.7 per cent of whom were black. Lynchings overwhelmingly took place in the South with few of the murderers ever convicted.

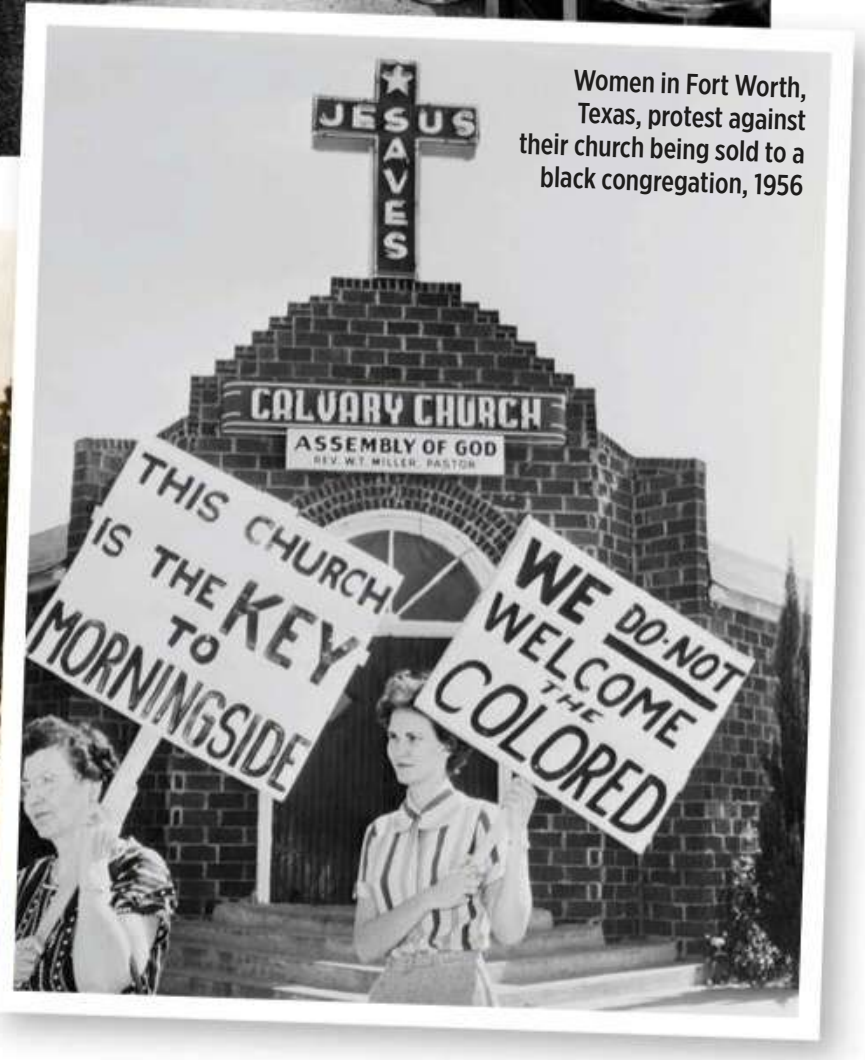
WHAT WAS PLESSY V FERGUSON AND THE DOCTRINE OF 'SEPARATE BUT EQUAL'?

Jim Crow was given its strongest constitutional backing in 1896 with a landmark decision by the Supreme Court, titled Plessy v Ferguson. A shoemaker named Homer Plessy had invited his own arrest by sitting in the whites only railcar as a challenge to the Louisiana Separate Car Act of 1890, which stated that white and black train passengers could not sit in the same railcars. Plessy was one eighth black, making him 'coloured' according to the law.

His lawyers' case failed, however, as did the appeal to the Supreme Court. Their ruling on 18 May 1896 declared that separate facilities did not violate

BELOW: **Young civil rights activists sit in defiance at a 'whites only' lunch counter in Oklahoma City, 1958**

Klansmen march throug Washington DC, 1925. By this time, the KKK had an estimated 4–5 million members



Women in Fort Worth, Texas, protest against their church being sold to a black congregation, 1956

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Gone with the Wind's Hattie McDaniel (pictured with Vivien Leigh) became the first black person to win an Oscar

A mother and daughter share a quiet moment outside the US Supreme Court after it bans segregation in public schools, 1954

the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment, as long as they were equal. So, the 'separate but equal' doctrine was born. It codified what the South was doing anyway: forming two societies, with the advantaged ruling white class on one side, and second class, deprived and oppressed African American people on the other. Separate but equal was the sanction for hundreds of resulting Jim Crow laws.

WHAT DID JIM CROW LOOK LIKE FROM STATE TO STATE?

Many public spaces and facilities were strictly segregated in all states that passed Jim Crow laws: shops, theatres, libraries, restaurants, toilets, waiting rooms, pools, hotels and water fountains could not be shared between white and black people, or had different entrances for each. Towns and cities were covered in 'whites only' and 'coloured' signs. Schools, hospitals, prisons, churches and cemeteries were also separate. In no way were these facilities equal, however, as those for African American people were nearly always inferior or run down, if they existed at all.

In many states, interracial marriage was forbidden to prevent what was seen as the 'mongrelisation' of the white race; white drivers had right of way on the roads; and black people had to sit at the back of the buses. Each state could pass any segregation law they wanted. It was unlawful in Alabama for white and black people to play cards, dice, dominoes or checkers together, for example. A 'coloured' barber could not serve white women in Georgia, while in South Carolina, a law stipulated that custody of a white child could not be given to a 'negro'.

HOW DID AFRICAN-AMERICAN PEOPLE CHALLENGE JIM CROW?

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was formed in 1909 with the aim of offering a truly effective civil rights organisation against Jim Crow. The 20th century saw racial tensions rise as millions of African American people moved from the South to the North or West, in what became known as the Great Migration. But the North had its own segregation laws and the growth of black communities was not welcomed by all, leading to race riots. In 1919, during the so called 'Red Summer', 25 cities erupted into violence, the worst being in Chicago, where dozens died, more than 500 were injured and 1,000 black families were left homeless.

Yet the history of Jim Crow is also abundant with individuals who bravely took a stand, such as journalist Ida B Wells Barnett, who launched a campaign in the 1890s against lynching, or prolific author WEB Du Bois. Both were founding members of the NAACP. Another way to fight Jim Crow was to succeed in spite of the adversity, be it in entertainment like Louis Armstrong or Hattie McDaniel (*pictured above left*) the first black actor to win an Oscar or in sports like Jackie Robinson and Jesse Owens, or politics, such as Charlotta Bass, who, in 1952, became the first woman of colour nominated for vice president of the US.

> "In many states, interracial marriage was forbidden to prevent the 'mongrelisation' of the white race"

NAACP members hold a rally outside a crime conference in Washington DC, calling upon the US government to take action against lynching, 1934

WHEN DID JIM CROW END?

Much like Plessy v Ferguson establishing the precedent of 'separate but equal', it would be a Supreme Court decision that dismantled it. On 17 May 1954, in Brown v Board of Education of Topeka, it was ruled unanimously that the segregation of public schools was unconstitutional, opening the door for schools to be integrated and Jim Crow laws to be undone.

The next year, Rosa Parks famously refused to give up her seat on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama; a catalyst for a bus boycott organised by charismatic Baptist minister, Martin Luther King Jr, and the civil rights movement.

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YOUR ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

For Russia, 1917 was the year that changed everything. After more than three centuries of rule, the mighty Romanov dynasty was forced out of power in March and a revolutionary government installed in its place.

But the upheaval was still far from over: by October, the new regime would itself be toppled by Vladimir Lenin's Bolshevik Party, setting in motion a chain of events that would lead to a brutal civil war, the birth of the USSR, and the despotic tyranny of Joseph Stalin.

In this month's essential guide, we explore the remarkable story behind the Russian Revolution, revealing how decades of political unrest and simmering class tension would explode into a full-blown socialist uprising. With expert insight supplied courtesy of author and historian Helen Rappaport, we'll delve into the lives of the major players – from Tsar Nicholas II to Leon Trotsky – while also answering some of the period's biggest questions: how did Lenin seize power? Why were the Romanovs murdered? And just who *was* Rasputin?

We begin our journey, however, with a handy timeline outlining the key events you need to know. Turn the page to get started.

A NOTE ON DATES

Until February 1918, Russia still used the Julian calendar, which was 13 days behind the Gregorian calendar already adopted by the rest of Europe. Unless stated otherwise, we have used the Julian dates throughout this guide (e.g. the February Revolution is stated as beginning on 23 February 1917, even though it was 8 March elsewhere in Europe).

28 Timeline
From the abolition of serfdom to the birth of the USSR, discover the events that transformed Russia beyond almost all recognition

30 The gathering storm
Learn about Russian life during the dying days of the tsarist regime

34 6 myths of the Russian Revolution
How many revolutions really were there? We separate fact from fiction and debunk some of the biggest misconceptions of the period

40 The year that changed everything
Why did 1917 prove to be the turbulent 12 months that it was?

44 The life of Lenin
Meet the fanatical Marxist who transformed the course of history

45 The end of the Romanovs
Discover the tragic, final moments of Tsar Nicholas II and his family

50 Kerensky, Trotsky and Stalin
Delve into the lives of three wildly different revolutionaries, each of whom sought power and influence following the collapse of the tsarist regime

52 The final countdown
How the Bolsheviks seized control of the Winter Palace in October 1917

55 Russian Civil War
No sooner was Lenin in power, plans were already in place to topple him

56 What came next
What was the legacy of the Russian Revolution?

HELEN RAPPAPORT is a bestselling author and historian who specialises in late imperial and revolutionary Russia. Her books include *Caught in the Revolution: Petrograd, 1917* and *The Race to Save the Romanovs.*

RUSSIA TRAN

An overview of the bitter protests, brutal murders and social upheaval

WORDS: EMMA SLATTERY WILLIAMS

19 FEB 1861

Serfdom is brought to an end across the Russian empire by the reigning tsar, Alexander II. But although peasants are no longer forced to live under the control of wealthy landowners, many become trapped in dire poverty, paying for their land.

1 MAR 1881

A member of the radical 'People's Will' group assassinates Alexander II in St Petersburg. He is succeeded by his son, Alexander III, who enacts anti-terror measures that limit civil rights and freedom of the press.

8 MAY 1887

Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov (who will later adopt the surname Lenin)'s brother, political activist Alexander Ilyich Ulyanov, and four others are executed for plotting to assassinate Alexander III.

1891–92

▼ A famine kills 375,000 people across Russia. The tsarist regime's handling of the crisis sparks widespread discontent and prompts an international outcry, as well as campaigns to help victims.

20 OCT 1894

▲ Alexander III succumbs to illness. His 26-year-old son, Nicholas II (*above*), takes the Russian throne.

8 DEC 1895

▼ Lenin is arrested for sedition. He is held in solitary confinement for 13 months, before being exiled to Siberia until 1900.

22–27 AUG 1917

◄ Russian army general Lavr Kornilov launches a failed coup against the Provisional Government, deeming it to be too weak against the Bolshevik threat. However, Lenin actually benefits from the chaos and Bolshevik support increases.

3–7 JUL 1917

Armed demonstrations break out in Petrograd against the Provisional Government. Kerensky succeeds Lvov as prime minister and quickly crushes the protests.

18–22 JUN 1917

An offensive against the Allies (orchestrated by the Russian war minister, Alexander Kerensky) ends in dismal failure, with many troops outright refusing to fight. It will be Russia's last offensive in WWI.

18 APR 1917

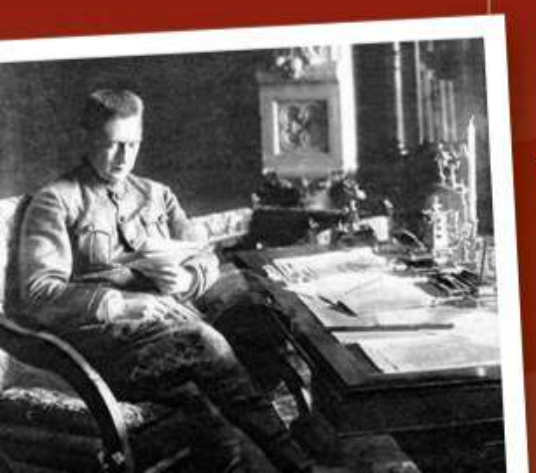
A leaked telegram sent by foreign minister Pavel Milyukov suggests that Russia will continue fighting the unpopular war. Unrest continues, and Bolshevik support grows.

3 APR 1917

Lenin returns to Russia having spent most of the previous 16 years in exile. He bases himself in Petrograd – formerly St Petersburg – which was renamed as a result of wartime efforts to remove words of German origin from the lexicon.

1 SEP 1917

▼ The Provisional Government proclaims Russia a republic, with Kerensky as its president.



25/26 OCT 1917

The Bolsheviks seize control of Petrograd, including the Winter Palace – the last stronghold of the Provisional Government. The second revolution of 1917 is complete, with Lenin installed as Russia's leader.

12 NOV 1917

Russia's new Constituent Assembly holds democratic elections, with the Socialist Revolutionary Party winning the most seats. However, the rival Bolshevik Party begins to cast doubt on the legitimacy of the victory.

5–6 JAN 1918

▼ The Constituent Assembly is forcibly dissolved by the Bolsheviks, who become the dominant political power.

3 MAR 1918*

The Treaty of Brest-Litovsk ends Russia's participation in World War I. It also requires the ruling Bolshevik government to give up more than a million square miles of territory.

* Russia adopted the Gregorian calendar on 14 February 1918

8 MAR 1918

The Bolshevik Party changes its name to the Communist Party. Four days later it declares that Moscow, not Petrograd, is now the Russian capital. The latter's proximity to hostile foreign powers is among the main reasons.

GETTY IMAGES X9, ALAMY X4

SFORMED

that led to the birth of the USSR

Timeline dates follow the Julian calendar until 14 February 1918, when Russia adopted the Gregorian calendar

17 FEB 1898

The Russian Social Democratic Labour Party is formed. In 1903, it will split into two factions: the radical Bolshevik wing, led by Lenin, and the more moderate Menshevik wing, led by Julius Martov.

1904–05

▼ Russia's decisive defeat during the Russo-Japanese war leads to a loss of international prestige.

9 JAN 1905

Troops open fire on pro-reform campaigners in the Russian capital of St Petersburg. Tsar Nicholas II is widely blamed, and the atrocity becomes known as 'Bloody Sunday'. A period of unrest known as the 1905 Revolution begins.

JUN 1905

▶ Men on board the battleship *Potemkin* rebel against their officers and sail to the port of Odessa. The mutiny triggers a pro-revolutionary protest in the city, which is suppressed by Cossack troops.

2 MAR 1917

◀ Tsar Nicholas II abdicates the throne and Russia's new Provisional Government is established, led by Prince Georgiy Lvov.

23 FEB 1917

Thousands of Russian workers (many of them women), go on strike, protesting against food shortages and the economic effects of the ongoing war. The first of two revolutions in 1917 begins.

17 DEC 1916

▲ Grigory Rasputin, controversial 'holy man' and close confidant of the imperial family, is murdered.

20 JUL 1914

▼ Russia enters World War I.

17 OCT 1905

Tsar Nicholas II issues the October Manifesto, basic civil liberties and an elected parliament called a 'Duma'. Despite this, many see the reforms as insufficient, and discontent remains.

16–17 JUL 1918

▲ Nicholas II and his family are murdered while under house arrest in Ekaterinburg.

30 AUG 1918

A period of mass arrests and executions known as the 'Red Terror' begins, sparked by an attempt on Lenin's life by a former Socialist Revolutionary. By now, Russia is embroiled in a civil war that involves multiple groups opposed to Bolshevik rule.

NOV 1920

▼ A coalition of anti-Bolshevik forces, known as the White Army, is forced to withdraw from the Crimea by Lenin's opposing Red Army.

MAR 1921

An unsuccessful uprising against the Bolsheviks, spearheaded by sailors, soldiers and civilians, takes place in the port city of Kronstadt.

30 DEC 1922

▶ With the civil war now over, Lenin founds the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR). It comprises Russia, Belarus, Ukraine and the Transcaucasus. ⊙

THE GATHERING STORM

The seeds of discontent and revolution were sown in Russia many years before they finally came to fruition in 1917

By the end of the 19th century, Russia was the largest contiguous land empire in the world – stretching from the Black Sea to the Bering Strait. This vast empire had many nationalities within its 125 million-strong population, many of whom followed different religions and spoke different languages – yet it fell to one ruler to keep it under control.

The agricultural system of Russia had changed little for centuries. Unlike the British empire – Russia's rival in terms of influence and control over Central Asia – Russia had not experienced a major industrial revolution. Much of the population were peasant farmers. Serfdom – which gave total authority to the landowner to control the life and work of the peasant serfs residing on his land – wasn't abolished until 1861, making Russia almost the last country in Europe to end the system. But although liberation from serfdom meant Russia's poor were no longer formally tied to landowners and could legally own land without consent, it wasn't the freedom they had hoped for. Landowners often kept the best land for themselves, leaving their former serfs with land that yielded few crops, yet commanded high redemption payments against the money they borrowed from the state in order to 'redeem' it. Making the payments was then made difficult when there was little in the way of food to sell.

DID YOU KNOW?

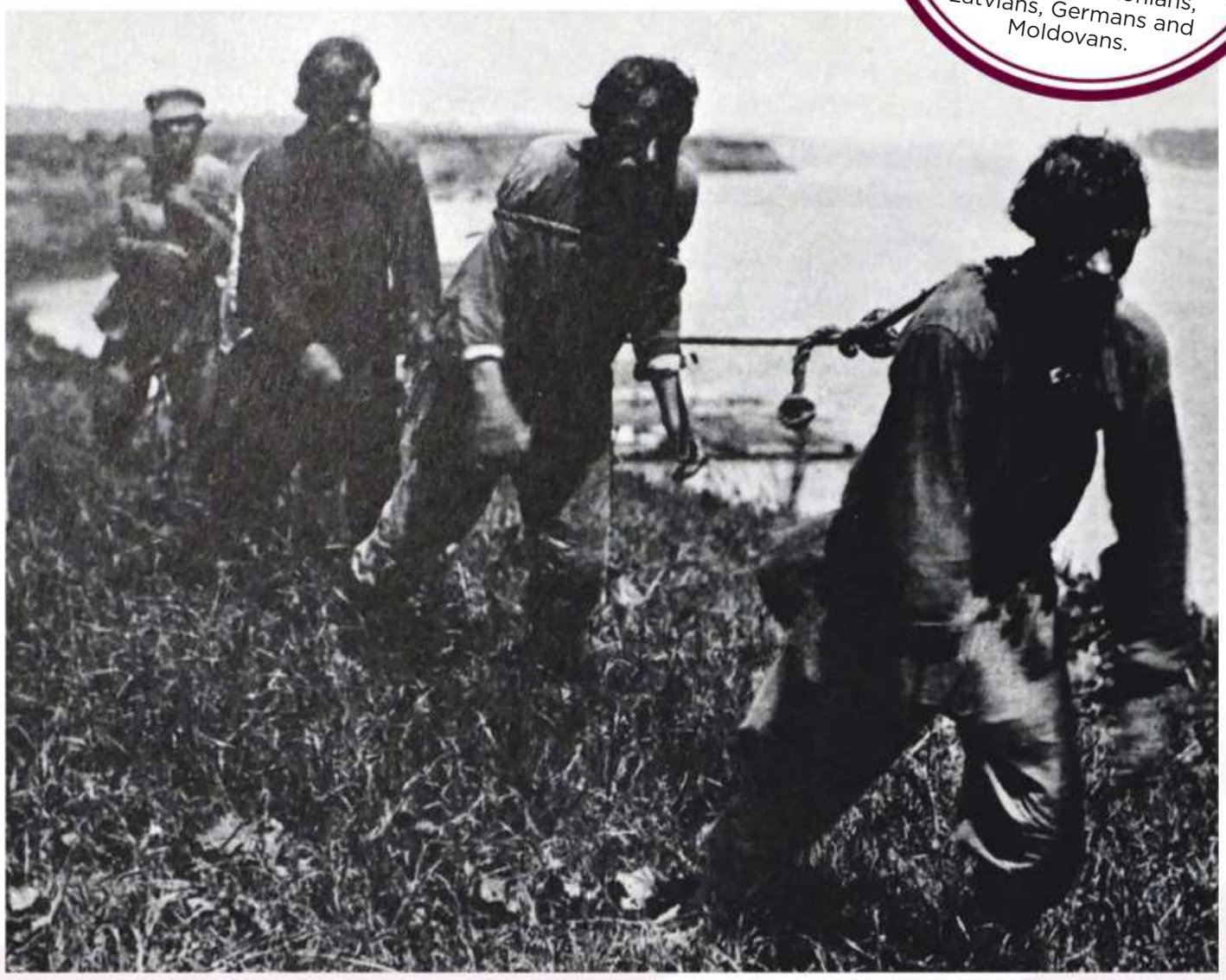
A MULTICULTURAL EMPIRE

As well as ethnic Russians, there were around 20 other nationalities within the Russian population with their own languages, including Poles, Jews, Finns, Estonians, Latvians, Germans and Moldovans.

A DOOMED DYNASTY

The enormous Russian empire had been ruled by a tsar (or tsaritsa), who exercised absolute power, since the mid-16th century. For 300 of the 400 years that passed between then and 1917, that authority had been wielded by the powerful Romanov dynasty. The tsar or tsaritsa was also the head of the Russian Orthodox Church. There was no elected parliament, with the nobility – which made up about 10 per cent of the population – owning most of Russia's land and in charge of the country's civil service and armed forces.

In 1855, Alexander II came to the Russian throne and proved himself to be one of the most progressive leaders Russia had seen. In 1861, Alexander brought in



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ABOVE: **Even after serfdom was abolished in Russia, life for peasants was still extremely tough – with famines a regular occurrence**
RIGHT: **Tsar Alexander II was known as the 'liberator' and brought in modest reforms until his assassination in 1881**

LEFT: **Bloody Sunday began as a peaceful rally in protest against hardship and poor working conditions**

BELOW: **Father Gapon, seen at the opening of a St Petersburg workers' club, led the march**

"THE TSAR HAD NO LIMITATIONS TO HIS POWER"

Nicholas II – the last tsar of Russia – was crowned in May 1896, nearly two years after his father's death

the Emancipation Edict, which ended serfdom in Russia. He also ensured that military conscription included all classes, rather than just the peasantry, and introduced educational reforms.

Russia seemed to be heading in a new direction, but in 1881, Alexander was assassinated by members of a group known as The People's Will. These disillusioned radicals believed that the reforms of Alexander II were not progressive enough and desired an end to tsarism in order to bring about a modern Russia. Though the assassination didn't trigger a revolution at that point, it encouraged a wave of killings of government officials, ministers and even members of the Romanov family in the years that followed.

Alexander's son, Alexander III, ascended the throne after his father's death and quickly took a harsh line against rebellion and dissenters. On the day he died, Alexander II had signed a proclamation that would have created legislative commissions made up of elected representatives – a small step towards a constitutional monarchy. Alexander III reversed this decision before it could be implemented and announced his intention to retain the tsar's autocratic power. He also stated his intention to strengthen Russia as a major power by implementing a policy of Russification through which Russian culture was imposed on ethnic minorities in order to create a singular national identity. This included suppressing all languages apart from Russian and promoting conversion to the Russian Orthodox Church.

Order was maintained by a secret police organisation, the Okhrana created after the assassination of Alexander II in 1881 whose role was to combat political terrorism and left wing revolutionary activity. The Okhrana relied heavily on fear to maintain peace, and political prisoners often found themselves exiled to remote Siberia, with its hostile, long winters.

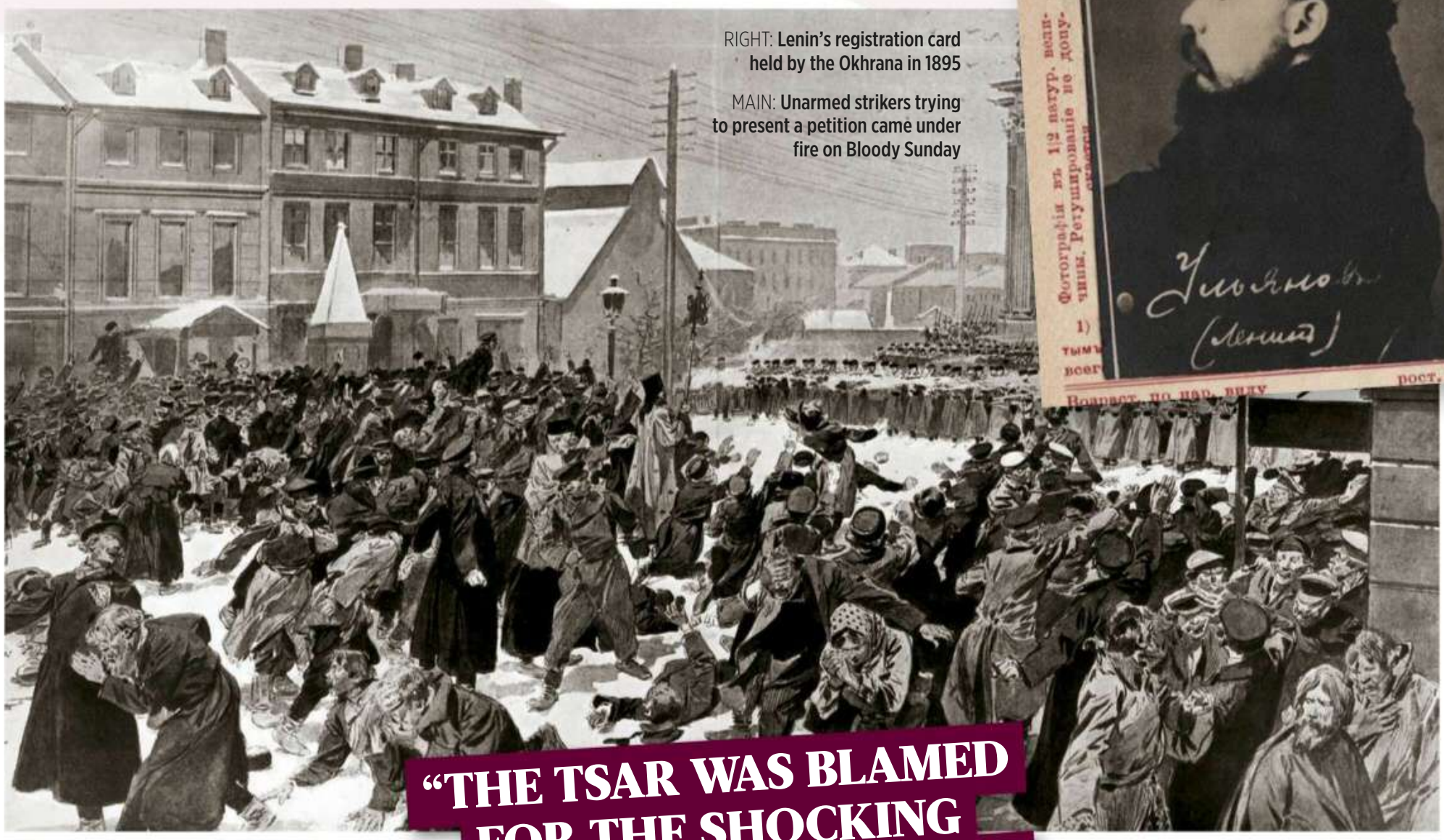
Alexander III continued to reverse the more liberal reforms of his father until his premature death in 1894, whereby his son Nicholas II came to the throne. Nicholas inherited an empire that he had shown little interest in ruling before his father's death, and there was widespread hope that the authoritarian regime of Alexander III might be softened under his rule. It was not to be. Fearful of change, democratic reform and of loosening the monarchy's hold on power, Nicholas stuck doggedly to the repressive system introduced by his father until forced by the growth of the revolutionary movement to bring in a State Duma (parliament) in 1906.

A GLIMPSE OF THE FUTURE

The year 1905 is often considered a practice run for the revolutions of 1917. Speaking in 1920, Vladimir Lenin would himself refer to 1905 as a "dress rehearsal" for the upheaval that followed.

In the early years of the 20th century, despite seeing an end to serfdom in 1861, life for Russia's poor was still hard and famines were a regular occurrence. The average Russians in rural areas were trapped in the daily grind of poverty, land hunger and famines; in urban areas the workers were crowded into unhealthy tenements and worked long hours with little or no employment rights or regulation of wages. An undercurrent of Marxist revolutionary thought had been slowly spreading across Russia since the late 19th century encouraging the urban working classes to revolt against the wealthy. Karl Marx was a German political philosopher who believed that whichever class held economic power also held political power, and that when class conflict finally ended a new ideal state would be created, known as communism.

On 9 January 1905, a group of peaceful protesters marched towards the Winter Palace in St Petersburg to deliver a petition to the Nicholas II. Led by a priest named Father Gapon, the protesters demanded changes to their working conditions and wished to call on the tsar to help them, believing him to be unaware of their plight. As the protesters approached, Russian troops charged and opened fire at the group of men, women and children – probably on the orders of Nicholas II's uncle,



RIGHT: **Lenin's registration card held by the Okhrana in 1895**

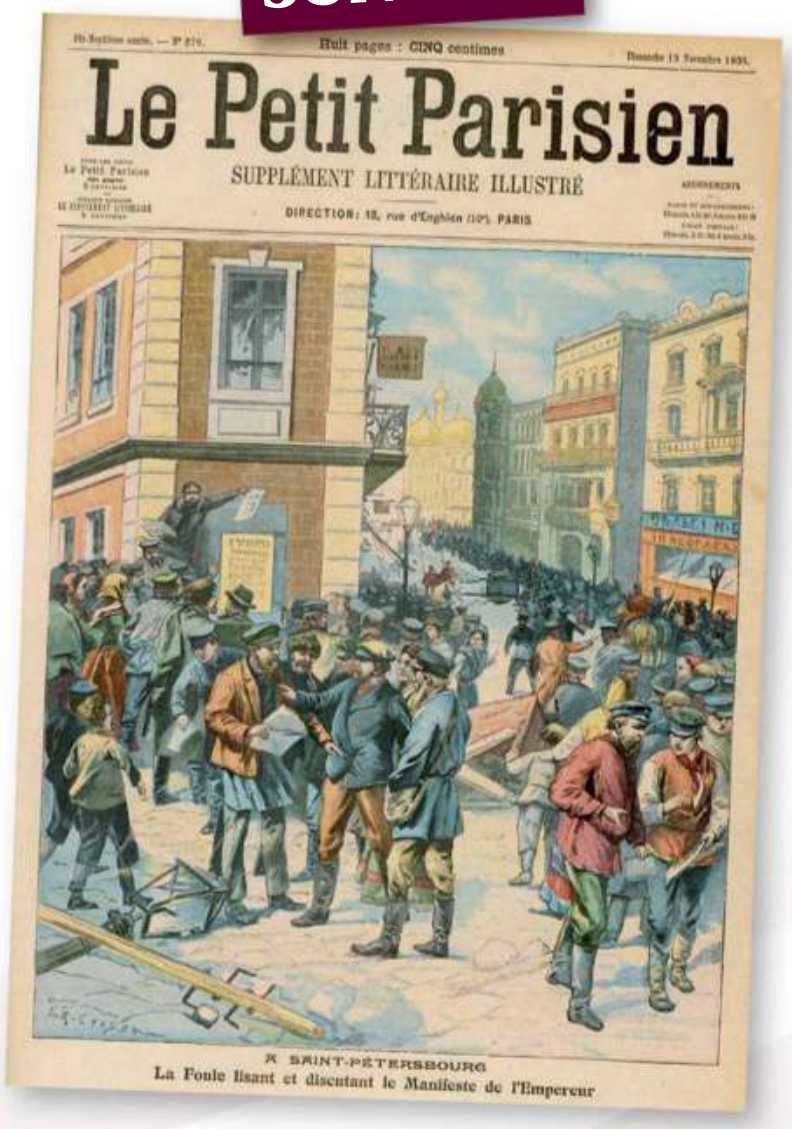
MAIN: **Unarmed strikers trying to present a petition came under fire on Bloody Sunday**

"THE TSAR WAS BLAMED FOR THE SHOCKING ATTACK, WHICH BECAME KNOWN AS BLOODY SUNDAY"

◀ Grand Duke Vladimir, commander of the Imperial Guard, though he wasn't in St Petersburg at the time. (The order was executed by Prince Sergey Vasilchikov, Commander of the Guards Corps, who was in charge of law and order in Vladimir's absence.) More than 100 people were killed and many more injured. Nicholas, who hadn't given the order to fire and who wasn't even at the Winter Palace, was still blamed for the shocking attack, which became known as Bloody Sunday.

The incident horrified the world, and within Russia, anger and resentment against the imperial family turned into protests and strikes. Peasants rose up against their landlords, in some instances burning down their manor houses. It's thought that 400,000 industrial workers in Russian Poland went on strike in January 1905, with a much larger general strike also taking place that October. Significantly, the general strike included workers on the railways, bringing Russia almost to a halt.

A council of workers a soviet was created to help organise the strike in St Petersburg, and other cities also set up their own councils. While these soviets didn't last long before being shut down, the idea of a workers' group for resistance and revolution would re emerge again in 1917. The St Petersburg Soviet chairman, revolutionary Leon Trotsky, would later play a significant role in Russia's future. But more unrest was yet to come.


Le Petit Parisien
SUPPLÉMENT LITTÉRAIRE ILLUSTRÉ
DIRECTION: 18, rue d'Enghien (10e), PARIS
SAINT-PÉTERSBOURG
La Foule lisant et discutant le Manifeste de l'Empereur

Newspapers around the world reported on Nicholas II's October Manifesto

A BEGRUDGING COMPROMISE

Between February 1904 and September 1905, Russia was at war with Japan over land in what is now China. For Russia this was supposed to be a sure victory, but instead it suffered a humiliating defeat. Mutinies within the navy culminated in June 1905 with an uprising onboard the battleship *Potemkin*. The sailors took command from the officers, killing some of them, before sailing to Odessa. Here, more riots broke out in support of the mutineers and more than 1,000 people were killed when the city's garrison fired on them.

In October 1905, Nicholas II issued the October Manifesto in a bid to end the widespread unrest. The manifesto allowed for the creation of a parliament, known as the Duma, with elected representatives chosen in a general election – though only men over the age of 25 were allowed to vote, and soldiers and officers were excluded. The manifesto also allowed for more civil rights, including freedom of speech, the right to form political parties and trade unions, and an agreement that new laws would have to pass through the Duma. The October Manifesto appeased the liberal middle classes, and the general strike was called off. But it did not significantly improve conditions for Russia's workers or peasants.

For his part, Nicholas did not like the idea of completely handing control over to the Duma and the Russian people, so he kept the power to veto any legislation as well as the right to dissolve the Duma.

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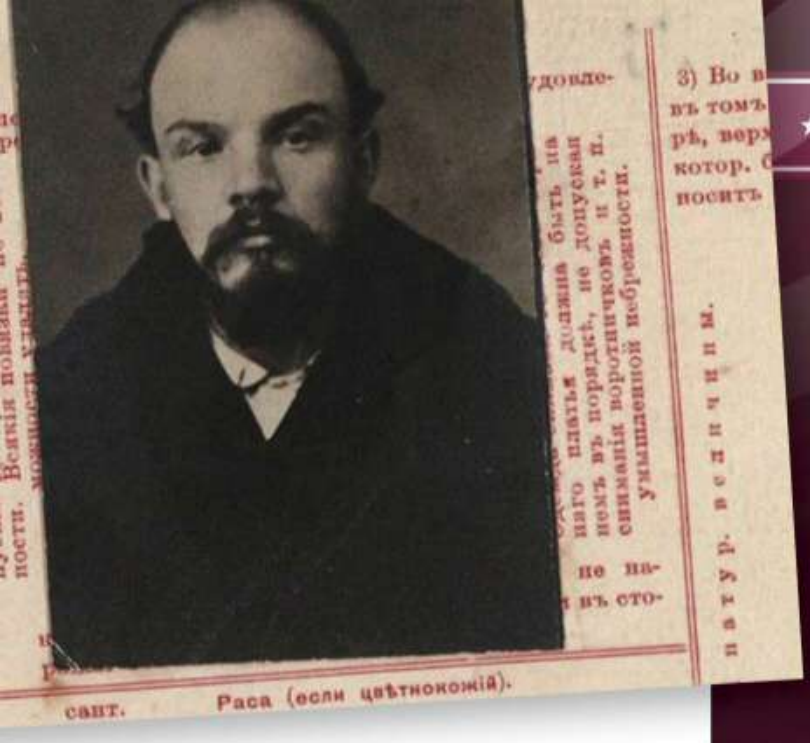


As a result, between 1906 and 1917, Russia saw four Dumas. The first two were dissolved for being deemed too radical a threat to tsarism. The third – which did sit its intended five-year term – only allowed the wealthy to vote so was more sympathetic towards tsarism and demanded little in the way of reform. The fourth Duma was made up of Octobrists (supporters of the October Manifesto) and socialists – decisions weren't easily agreed on, and by 1915 it had been suspended owing to Russia's involvement in World War I (although it did sit briefly from February to June 1916, and again in November 1916).

LENIN IN EXILE

The Okhrana rounded up many of the revolutionaries who opposed tsarism, among them Vladimir Ilyich Lenin, whose elder brother Alexander had been executed for attempting to assassinate Alexander III. Charged with sedition, in 1897 Lenin had been exiled to Siberia for three years. He had spent the 16 years after that in Europe, becoming a prominent figure in revolutionary thought as well as within the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party. Lenin returned to Russia in 1905, but as a crackdown on opposition to the tsar emerged, he fled once again in 1907. And he wasn't alone. Fear of execution in this period saw a drop in membership of revolutionary groups, with those who remained forced to take their revolutionary activities underground.

In 1911, Russian prime minister Petr Stolypin was assassinated in Kiev by a revolutionary anarchist. Stolypin had brought in agrarian reforms that intended to give land to peasant farmers and make them loyal to the imperial regime. But he had also undertaken a harsh line of repression and martial law against revolutionaries and those who opposed the monarchy.

The unrest would continue to simmer over the following decade, eventually leading to the Romanovs' fall from power. The discontent felt in 1905 would inspire those who called for even more radical change in 1917.

WORDS: EMMA SLATTERY WILLIAMS

IN NUMBERS

165 MILLION

Population of the Russian empire in 1914

84%

Percentage of the population of European Russia, according to the 1897 census, who were peasants

0.5%

Percentage of the population, in 1897, that made up the ruling classes

5,772 MILES

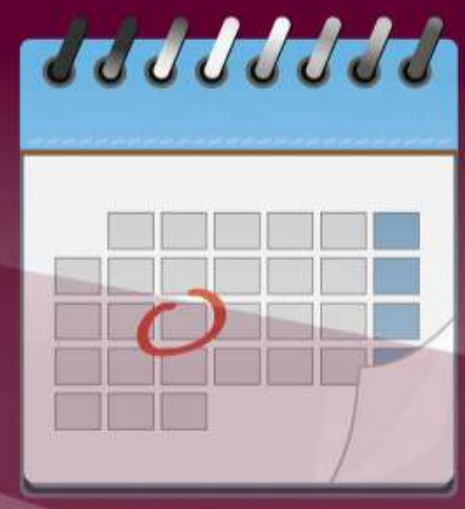
The length of the Trans-Siberian railway – the world's longest single railway line – which was completed in July 1904

17

The age of Michael I, founder of the Romanov dynasty, when he was elected tsar in 1613

13 DAYS

Until February 1918, Russia used the Julian calendar, which was 13 days behind the Gregorian calendar used by the rest of Europe



8.8 MILLION SQUARE MILES

The size of the Russian empire at its peak

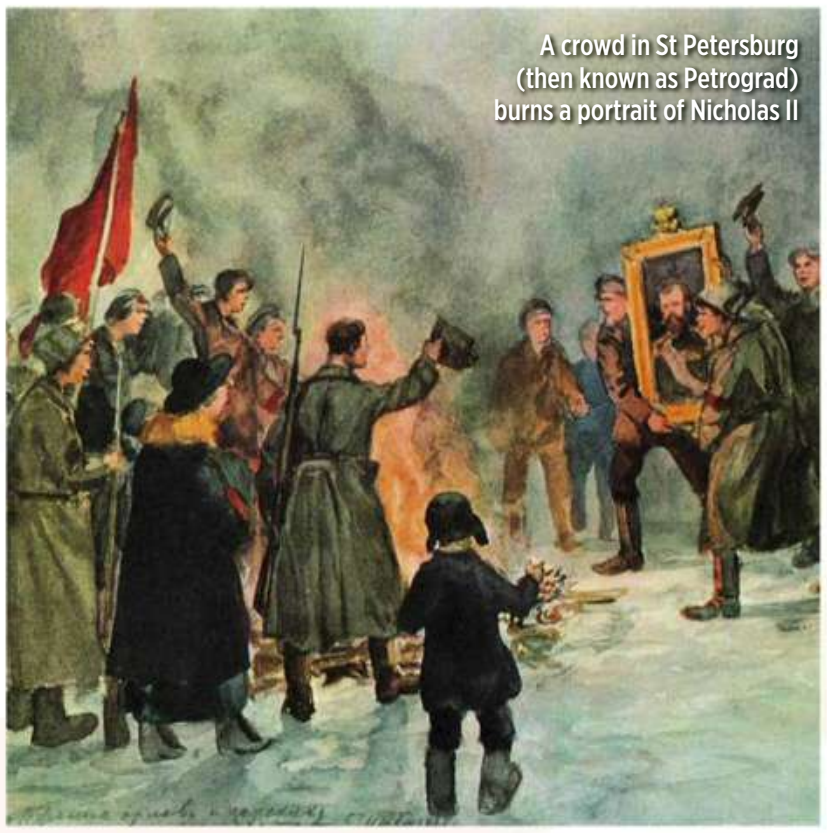
6 MYTHS OF THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION

We debunk the most common misconceptions about this turbulent time in history with help from expert **Helen Rappaport**

1 THERE WAS ONLY ONE REVOLUTION IN 1917

When we discuss the Russian Revolution of 1917, we are actually talking about two separate events that took place within the same year; the first was a spontaneous movement that overthrew the reigning tsar, Nicholas II, while the second was an orchestrated coup and Bolshevik takeover.

In March 1917, Nicholas abdicated in the sincere belief that by doing so he would save Russia at a time of deep political turmoil and a disastrous war. The Bolshevik revolution, however, wouldn't happen for around eight months, when, led by Lenin, the Bolsheviks eventually wrestled power from the Provisional Government. Though intrinsically linked, the two events were separate; combined, they created a year that would change Russia forever.



A crowd in St Petersburg (then known as Petrograd) burns a portrait of Nicholas II

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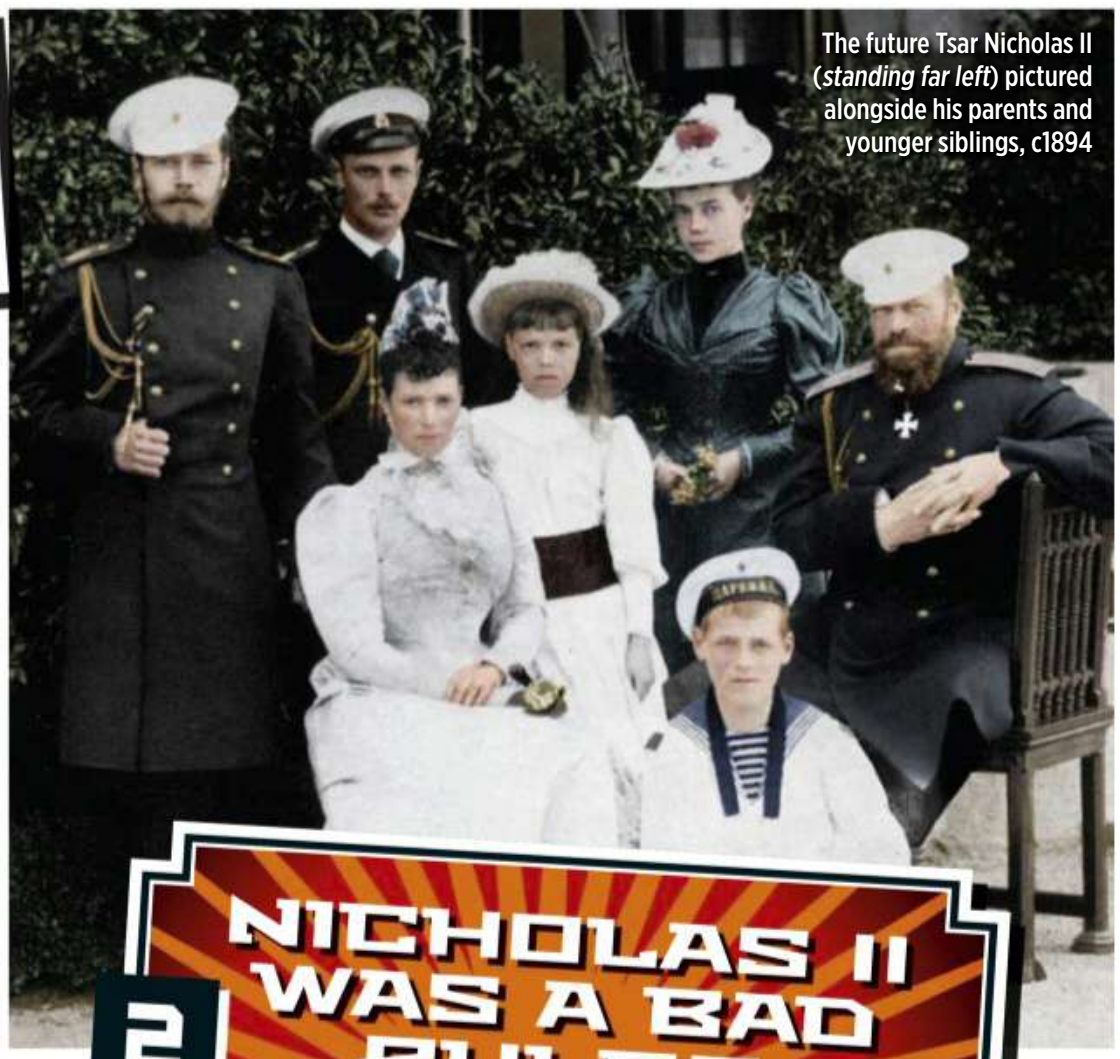


The future Tsar Nicholas II (*standing far left*) pictured alongside his parents and younger siblings, c1894

2 NICHOLAS II WAS A BAD RULER

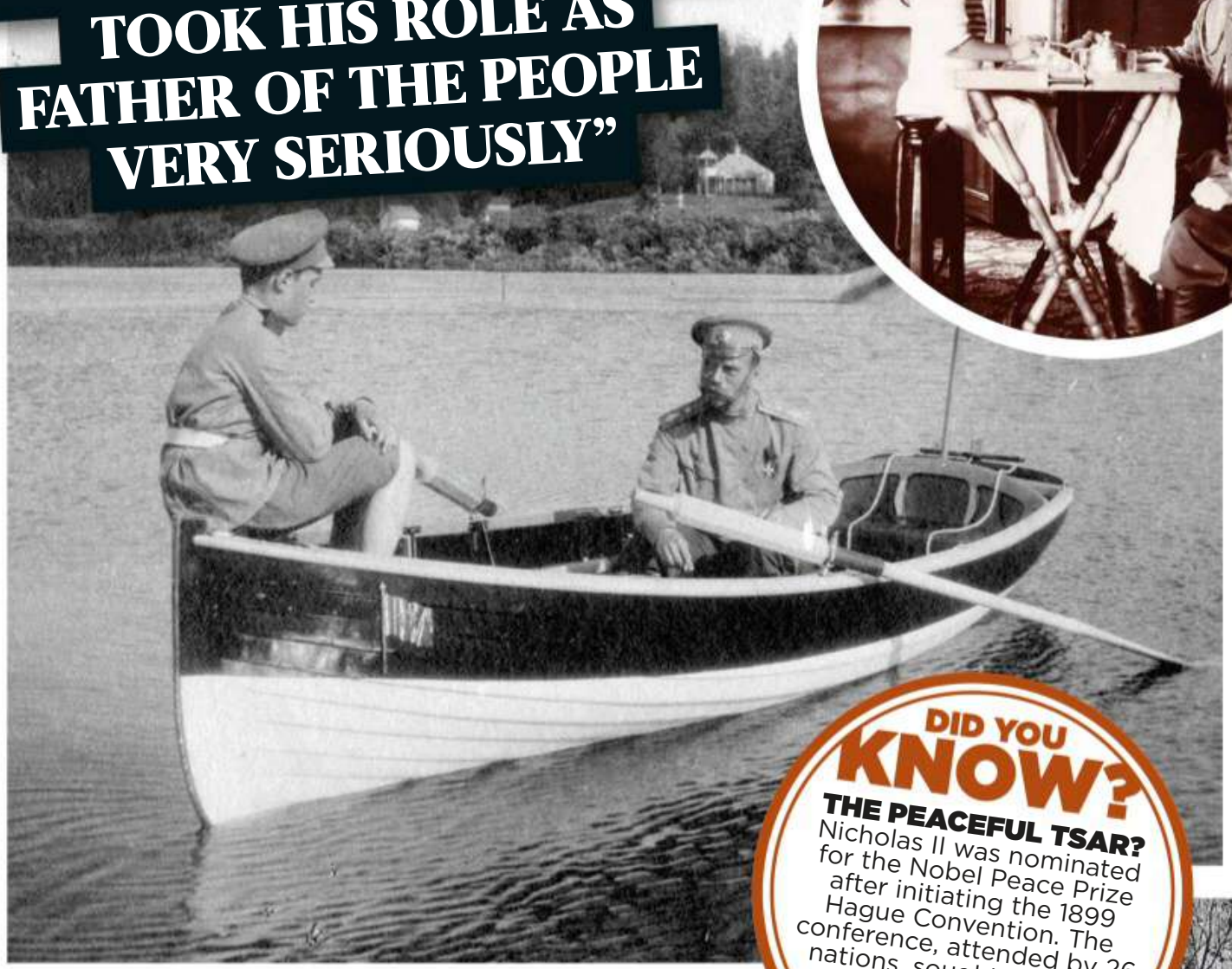
If there was a single figure to blame for the fall of the Romanov dynasty, Nicholas II is often deemed to have been that person. He is commonly cast as an ineffectual leader who brought his dynasty's collapse on himself. "But," argues Helen Rappaport, "it can't be underestimated what a massive job it was to be ruler of Russia the vast scale of that country and its population was far beyond that of anywhere else in Europe, and Nicholas had many disparate peoples to govern."

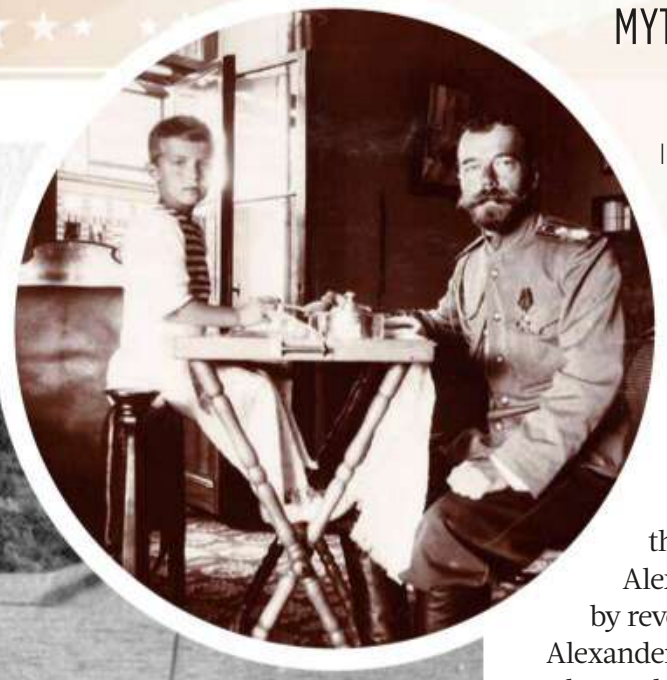
Growing up, Nicholas had not shown much inclination to rule, and came to the throne much earlier than expected – he was aged just 26 when his father, Alexander III, died at the age of 49. Both father and son had assumed they would have more time together to prepare Nicholas for the role of tsar.

"People have often taken the easy route by blaming Nicholas for the downfall of the Russian monarchy," says Rappaport. "Nicholas II was limited in his capabilities as a monarch, but that was mainly because he was ill prepared to be tsar, a role that was rather unexpectedly thrust upon him when his father died quite suddenly.

"It's very easy to say Nicholas was a weak tsar, lacking the insight and skills to govern with authority. Unfortunately,

"HE WAS WELL-MEANING, WELL-INTENTIONED, AND TOOK HIS ROLE AS FATHER OF THE PEOPLE VERY SERIOUSLY"





INSET: **Nicholas II with his youngest child and only son, Alexei**

MAIN: **Nicholas II and Alexei in happier days – they, and the rest of their family, would be murdered in 1918**

he surrounded himself with mainly reactionary ministers who blocked any attempts at reform and gave him bad advice."

Despite his failings as tsar, he was a devoted father and husband: "In many ways, the tragedy of Nicholas was that he was a real family man who engaged with his children far more than many aristocratic parents of his time. He was an incredibly loving and hands-on father."

Prepared or not, Nicholas treated the role of tsar as his duty and, believes Rappaport, truly cared for his people – even if he didn't always act on their concerns: "He was well-meaning, well-intentioned, and he took his role as father of the Russian people incredibly seriously. And he was very devout and tried to be a good Christian tsar."

THE WILL OF THE TSAR

Nicholas, like many autocratic rulers, stubbornly believed in his divine right to rule, which made him less inclined to believe that his people knew what they wanted. His inexperience when it came to ruling and his natural resistance to change also meant that he didn't pick the best ministers: "He didn't have the breadth of understanding or imagination to be good in terms of the people he chose to work under him, in his choice of ministers. He made lots of mistakes. He was too often bullied into taking on the wrong people, or surrounding himself with 'yes men' who were appointed not for their talent, but through influence at court. Very often, ministerial appointments were made through family connections and the incredibly Byzantine bureaucracy of tsarist Russia."

Rappaport suggests that if we re-evaluate Nicholas II, we might have more sympathy for him:

"He was one of these people, unfortunately, by an accident of birth, born to be tsar but not really well-equipped for the job. I think he deserves some degree of pity and sympathy. First of all, it took 10 years for Nicholas and Alexandra to produce a son and heir. And then it became evident that their beautiful, longed-for son had a life-threatening condition: haemophilia. Nicholas was terribly distracted by his son's condition, and a great amount of his time was preoccupied with protecting Alexei and pacifying a very highly neurotic wife."

The influence of Nicholas' father, Alexander III, may have also played a huge role in his style of ruling: "His father was a very harsh, authoritarian man – quite a bully, actually," continues Rappaport. "It's important to remember that Alexander III came to the throne on the back of the assassination of his father, Alexander II, who was murdered by revolutionaries. The whole of Alexander III's reign was a response to that and can be seen as a cranking-up of authority, and a clamp-down on dissent. That was the system that Nicholas inherited. It did loosen a bit under him, but unfortunately not sufficiently."

Attempting to honour the rule of his father, keep a hold of his power and work within a system that was desperately in need of reform all made ruling for Nicholas difficult: "He was hamstrung by a very antiquated system that was resistant to reform, as well as fearful of change himself and limited in his vision for democracy and constitutional government – two concepts that were alien to Nicholas, really."

DID YOU KNOW?

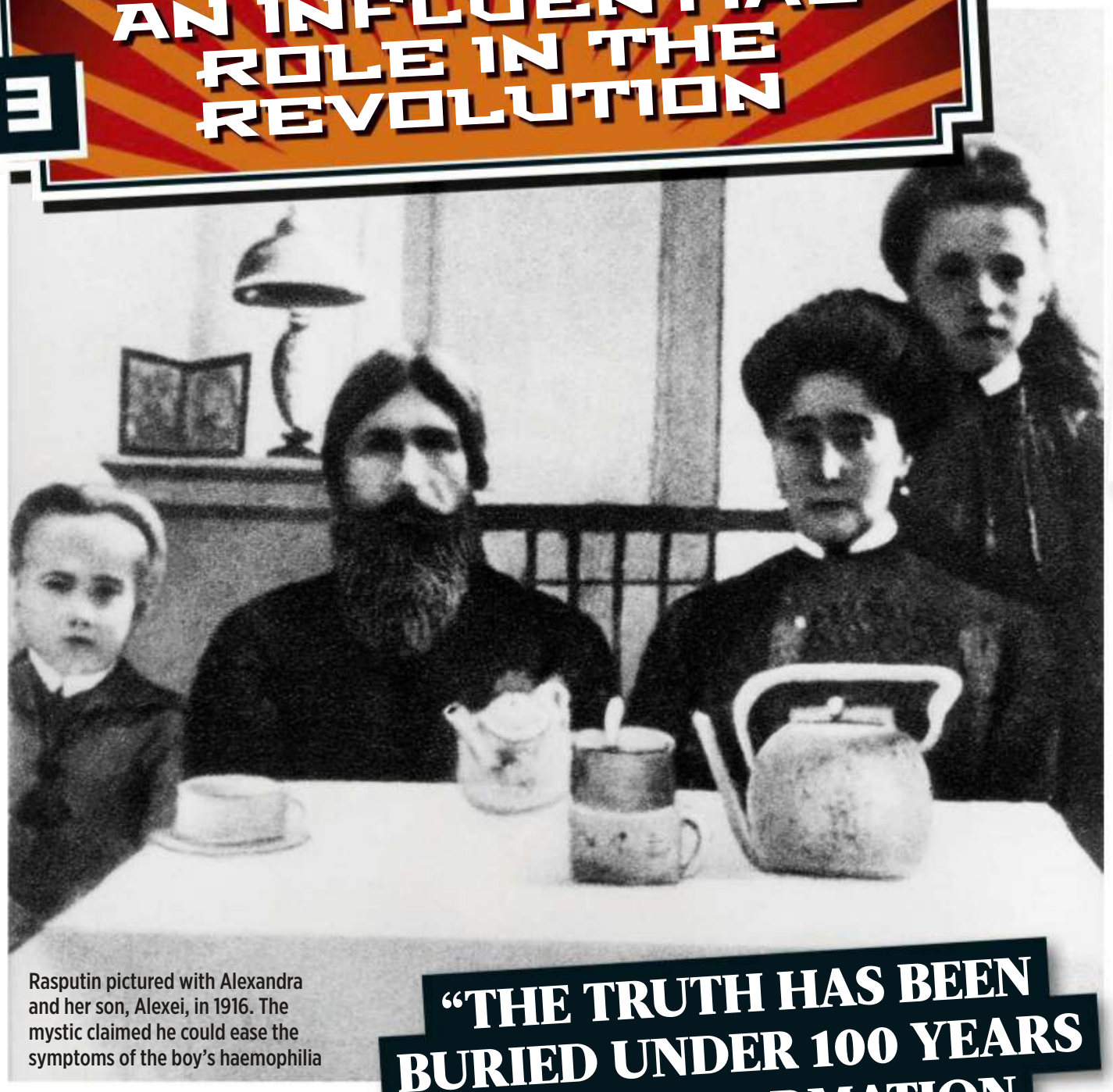
THE PEACEFUL TSAR?

Nicholas II was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize after initiating the 1899 Hague Convention. The conference, attended by 26 nations, sought to codify the laws of war and bring the arms race under control.

A contemporary illustration depicts the carnage caused by the bomb in St Petersburg that killed Tsar Alexander II in 1881

Alexander II lies in state after his assassination – his son, Alexander III, would crack down on the revolutionary groups he blamed for his father's death

3 RASPUTIN PLAYED AN INFLUENTIAL ROLE IN THE REVOLUTION



Rasputin pictured with Alexandra and her son, Alexei, in 1916. The mystic claimed he could ease the symptoms of the boy's haemophilia

ABOVE: **Prince Felix Yusupov – the ringleader of Rasputin's brutal assassination in December 1916**

TOP: **A satirical cartoon ridicules the family's relationship with the self-proclaimed 'holy man'**

"THE TRUTH HAS BEEN BURIED UNDER 100 YEARS OF DISINFORMATION AND CHARACTER ASSASSINATION"

The mysterious figure of Grigory Rasputin has been inexplicably linked to the Russian Revolution and the fall of the Romanovs. From cartoons to pop songs, he has permeated popular culture, but Helen Rappaport suggests that Rasputin's part in the events of 1917 has been massively overstated and that he was, in fact, the victim of gossip-mongering.

"Rasputin's role in the revolution has been grossly exaggerated. There is so much that is wrong with the whole Rasputin story, and unfortunately, the truth has been buried under 100 years of disinformation, character assassination, hype, rumour and gossip."

A self-proclaimed 'holy man' from Siberia, Rasputin became a spiritual advisor to the imperial family. He attracted much speculation at the time, and many believed that he had an unhealthy influence over the royals, especially the tsaritsa; contemporary cartoons even suggested that the pair had a sexual relationship.

Rasputin claimed he could ease the symptoms of Alexei's haemophilia and became a source of comfort to Alexandra: "Rasputin fundamentally was a friend and a wise guru to the imperial family who were very isolated, partly because of the terrible fear they all had of political assassination, but also because they had to protect Alexei," claims Rappaport. "To them, Rasputin was a wise counsellor who they consulted about matters of religion. But he wasn't at the palace every five minutes trying to cure Alexei. Far from it. He went there occasionally and sometimes consulted with Alexandra over the telephone if she needed advice."

A NECESSARY EVIL

Rappaport suggests that not all members of the imperial family, however, fell under Rasputin's spell: "Nicholas was actually quite sceptical about Rasputin. He found him very wise when they discussed religious matters, but he took Rasputin's influence over Alexandra as something he just had to put up with. Rasputin was Alexandra's emotional, mental, spiritual prop to keep her going when her beloved son suffered bad attacks of bleeding. The tsar understood that. He knew he could not remove Rasputin from the family

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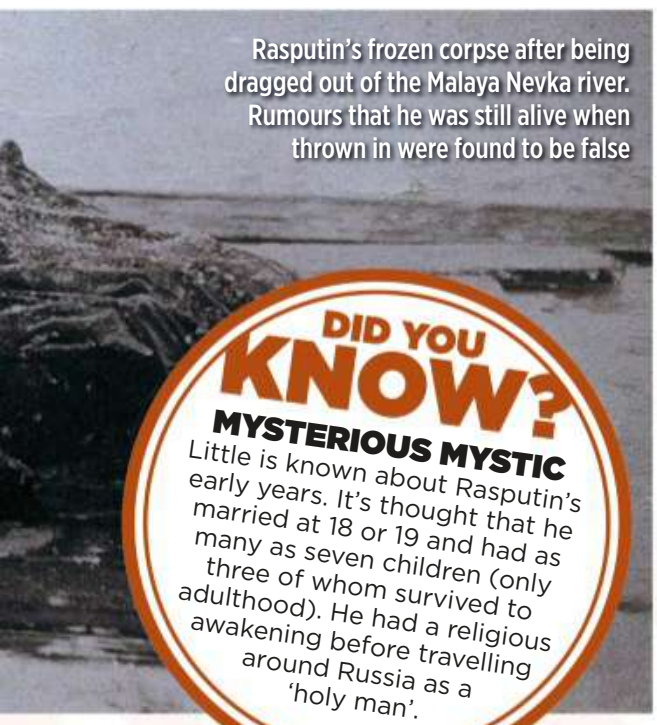
because he was too important to his wife."

As public hatred for Rasputin grew, there were concerns that the mystic's influence over the imperial family was hindering the war effort and undermining Russia's foreign policy. On 17 December 1916, Rasputin visited Prince Felix Yusupov (the husband of Nicholas II's niece, Princess Irina) at his palace in Petrograd – supposedly on the pretext that Yusupov's wife wanted to meet him. According to Yusupov, he led him to a basement, where he plied Rasputin with drink before shooting him. But Rasputin did not die immediately, despite bleeding heavily. As a result, Yusupov called in his co-conspirators Grand Duke Dmitri Pavlovich and Vladimir Purishkevich (who were waiting in another room) to finish the job. It was allegedly Purishkevich – a member of the State Duma – who fired the final, fatal two shots at close range.

After his death, Rasputin's body was thrown into the Malaya Nevka river. A myth at the time stated that the mystic was still alive at this point and had to be drowned, but an autopsy on the body pointed to blood loss as the cause of death. In recent years it has been suggested that a British agent was also involved in the plot to rid Russia of the so-called 'Mad Monk'.

Says Rappaport: "As often happens in history, the media and the gossips got a handle on what they thought was the truth about Rasputin and circulated the most hideous character assassinations about him – they demonised the man. A lot of what was said about him was completely unfounded, if not absolute lies. It remains very difficult to separate out truth from fiction when it comes to Rasputin."



Rasputin's frozen corpse after being dragged out of the Malaya Nevka river. Rumours that he was still alive when thrown in were found to be false

DID YOU KNOW?

MYSTERIOUS MYSTIC

Little is known about Rasputin's early years. It's thought that he married at 18 or 19 and had as many as seven children (only three of whom survived to adulthood). He had a religious awakening before travelling around Russia as a 'holy man'.

A Russian infantry regiment on the march, c1914. The nation initially entered WWI with optimism, but its weaknesses soon became apparent

4 WORLD WAR I WAS THE BIGGEST CATALYST FOR REVOLUTION

World War I was devastating for Russia, which, as a country, was ill prepared for a war on such a global scale especially amidst the political and economic turmoil taking place internally. But, although the war exacerbated unrest and promoted ill feeling towards the tsar, revolution had been brewing long before this, claims Rappaport, who believes 1905 was the point at which Russia could have avoided revolution.

"The year 1905 could have been a big turning point in Russian history. If Nicholas had agreed at that point to the introduction of a constitutional government and a proper democratic system, and if he'd had the courage and the wisdom to institute a major reform of Russian bureaucracy and government, the tide of revolution could have been halted. Russia could have ended up as a constitutional monarchy, much like Britain. But Nicholas wasn't brave enough and they missed their moment."

Rappaport even suggests that, initially, World War I offered a distraction from the revolutionary unrest: "When war broke out in 1914, it proved to be a temporary diversion from the growing revolutionary movement. But as time went on, the war became disastrous for Russia. The army was largely peasant conscript; there were huge high rates of desertion; the army was very poorly supplied and under equipped; some soldiers didn't even have boots or ammunition. Morale was terribly low, and that, combined with shortages in the big cities because most of the food was being diverted to the army at the front led to a resurgence of protests and strikes and marches, which then triggered the February Revolution."

ABOVE: **A French newspaper depicts the unrest and looting of 1905**

LEFT: **Food shortages across Russia left many families queuing outside shops for paltry supplies**

5 LENIN WAS PRESENT THROUGHOUT THE EVENTS OF 1917

Lenin addresses the Second Russian Social Democratic Labour Party Congress in 1903. It was here that the party split into two separate factions: the Bolsheviks and Mensheviks

"THE PROTESTS AND UNREST IN RUSSIA WERE THE PRODUCTS OF A GRASSROOTS MOVEMENT"

Although Lenin played a major role in the Bolsheviks' rise to power and would eventually become leader of the new Soviet Russia, the revolutionary movements that had been bubbling away in Russia since 1905 remained active even when Lenin wasn't in the country.

One particularly common misconception is that Lenin personally led the uprising that led to the tsar's abdication in March 1917, but this is not the case. As Helen Rappaport explains: "Lenin was living in exile in Europe at the time, although revolution was always on his mind and he was pulling strings in some ways.

"He [Lenin] was plotting revolution, from one bolthole to the next; he spent 1900 until the spring of 1917 traipsing around Europe from one pokey flat to another with his wife, and most of the time, his mother-in-law. He was in Switzerland. He was in Poland. He was in Paris, London and Germany. He went here, there and everywhere, constantly moving on because he was public enemy number one in Russia.

"And from his various boltholes, Lenin ran Russia's revolutionary movement. He and his wife organised an underground network of couriers and revolutionaries who smuggled their illegal literature, the journal *Iskra*, into Russia and kept tabs on all the revolutionaries in hiding."

Lenin did return to Russia for a brief period after the 1905 Revolution, but had fled again by 1907. As Rappaport says, it was those in Russia taking part in the strikes and protests who had more to lose. "The people living in Russia were the ones taking the risks. Lenin was okay. He might not have had much money, but at least he wasn't likely to get the secret police knocking on his door any minute. He conducted the whole thing from a distance, in a sort of vacuum."

The protests and unrest in Russia were the products of a grassroots movement, fuelled by discontent with the autocratic

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Lenin's wife, Nadezhda Krupskaya, was also a proud Marxist and devoted revolutionary

A skull belonging to one of the members of the imperial family, discovered in 1979 but not excavated until 1991

DID YOU KNOW?

NOT AT REST

Even in 2021, the Romanovs have still not been reunited. The Russian Orthodox Church has held back on burying the remains of Alexei and Maria in order to complete further tests, so they have not yet been interred with their parents and siblings.

6 ONE OF THE ROMANOV DAUGHTERS SURVIVED

system and the appalling conditions ordinary people were suffering. Many may have been inspired by the ideas of the Bolsheviks, but it was not them who led the people to rise up against their tsar. The events of 1917 weren't planned by an official leader. The people of Russia had had enough, and spontaneous and simultaneous protests grew into a nation-changing event. This was good news for Lenin, who was able to capitalise on the unrest and push the Bolshevik Party as an alternative to the Provisional Government.

After the Romanovs were murdered in Ekaterinburg in July 1918, the Bolsheviks initially stated that the imperial children, at least, had been taken to safety. The truth of what had happened to the tsar's family wouldn't emerge for some time in order to keep the support of the Russian people. This allowed rumours to spread, including that the youngest Romanov daughter, 17-year-old Anastasia, had survived after she was taken away by a sympathetic guard. For those appalled at the violence inflicted on the imperial family, this was a tiny glimmer of hope that they could cling to.

Helen Rappaport explains why the truth of what happened to the Romanovs stayed covered up for so long: "People knew Nicholas had been murdered quite soon after it happened; the Bolsheviks did admit to killing him. There are several reasons why the whole truth didn't come out straight away. Firstly, there was the embarrassment of all the foreign governments who had let the family down and who hadn't done enough to try and save them. But another reason is that the Bolsheviks themselves were the inventors of fake news. Right from the moment they murdered the imperial family, they started putting out stories that the children had been evacuated somewhere safe, which simply wasn't true. In all the fog of the civil war that came after the revolution, when no one knew exactly what had happened to Alexandra and the children, rumour, counter-rumours and all kinds of stories began circulating. The Bolsheviks sat back and let everyone run around in circles wondering what had happened without admitting to what they had actually done. It would have been a pretty poor show if they had come out and admitted to killing the children – they just weren't going to do that."

PRETENDER PRINCESSES

Many imposters claimed to be Anastasia, with perhaps the most famous of these being Anna Anderson. Born Franziska Schanzkowska in Poland in 1899, Anderson first began claiming to be the lost princess in Berlin in 1920, and for many years kept attempting to prove her identity, until a West German court rejected her case in 1970.

The graves of the Romanovs were found in 1979, but this was kept quiet by the Russian government. An official excavation began in 1991, after the fall of the Soviet Union, and the remains of five family members were discovered. Their bodies were laid to rest in St Petersburg's Peter and Paul Cathedral. In 2007, the final bodies, those of Alexei and Maria, were found, although they have yet to be buried.

DNA testing has proved that Nicholas II, Alexandra and all of their five children were killed in 1918 – there were no survivors. In the 1990s, Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh – and the grandnephew of Alexandra Romanov – allowed his DNA to be tested to help solve the mystery once and for all.

WORDS: EMMA SLATTERY WILLIAMS

WHY DID REVOLUTION TAKE PLACE IN 1917?

Opposition to the old imperial regime, World War I and economic collapse were just some of the reasons that led to political and social revolution in Russia

THE ROMANOV DYNASTY

The Romanovs had been Russia's ruling family since Michael I came to power in 1613, but there had been gathering resentment and opposition to the repressive tsarist regime well before Nicholas II ascended the throne in 1894. For much of the late 19th century, revolutionary groups had posed a threat to the monarchy, and the imperial family had become wary and distant from the Russian people – actions that made them appear uncaring and inconsiderate.

Nicholas II's heir, Alexei, had been born with haemophilia, a genetic disorder that prevents blood from clotting, and which can result in prolonged internal bleeding. As heir to the throne, it was vital that Alexei was protected, and Nicholas found himself often preoccupied with his family and frequently ill son.

Nicholas' father, Alexander III, had done little to prepare his son for the role of tsar and constantly belittled Nicholas, believing that his son was not up to the job. This in turn did much to undermine Nicholas' confidence, and his lack of preparedness for the role was evident when Alexander fell sick and died unexpectedly in 1894, leaving his 26-year-old son in charge of a vast and unruly empire.

RESISTANT TO REFORM

Nicholas proved as reluctant to share power and undertake reforms as his predecessors, and repeatedly dissolved the State Dumas. Author and historian Helen Rappaport explains: "The State Duma was a loosely democratic legislative body, but every time it started out, Nicholas very quickly dissolved it because the minute the deputies all got together, they started making demands for reforms. Nicholas just couldn't countenance the extensive constitutional reforms they were asking for. There was one more attempt to get the Duma going in November 1907, and that did last five years. But there was constant fighting to get any reforms through because Nicholas was so stubborn."

Nicholas firmly believed that autocracy was right for Russia. His refusal to accept change was a key reason why the Russian people rose up against him.

"Nicholas stuck doggedly to the principle of divine rule, of being the monarch and ruling by right – a God-given right," says Rappaport. "He was fearful of reform; fearful of changing anything about the old system his father had handed down to him. His political inflexibility marred his positive qualities, particularly as a family man."

Members of one of the Dumas gather in 1907 – most would last only a few months before being dissolved by Nicholas II

GETTY IMAGES X6

ABOVE: **Russian soldiers wander across a frozen battlefield strewn with the bodies of their comrades**

MAIN: **Tsar Nicholas II (*right*) confers with his cousin, Grand Duke Nicholas**

WORLD WAR 1

World War I caused chaos and devastation across all of Europe and pitted some of the world's biggest powers – and royal families – against each other. Russia entered World War I in late July 1914; at first, the Russian people united behind the tsar and the Russian war effort in a wave of patriotism, but enthusiasm for the conflict soon waned.

Russia suffered greatly during the war, with around 1.6 million of its soldiers killed by December 1916 and millions more wounded or taken prisoner. Communications and transport within Russia were also incredibly poor and this hindered the war effort: despite producing great numbers of artillery shells, for example, they couldn't get them to the front.

In the summer of 1916, Russia launched its last major offensive of the war – the Brusilov Offensive – during which it was forced to retreat. The failed offensive saw a massive drop in morale with high levels of desertion.

The previous year had seen Nicholas II sack Grand Duke Nicholas, a member of his own family, and appoint himself commander-in-chief of the Russian army, a position the tsar was not qualified for. As millions of Russian soldiers and civilians were killed, Nicholas II, as head of the army, became a target for discontent, and was held accountable for the suffering of the Russian people.

Thousands of Russians called for an end to the country's participation in the war. In March 1918, after the Bolsheviks had seized power, the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk was signed with Germany, ending Russia's involvement and fulfilling one of the key promises of the Bolshevik campaign of the previous year.

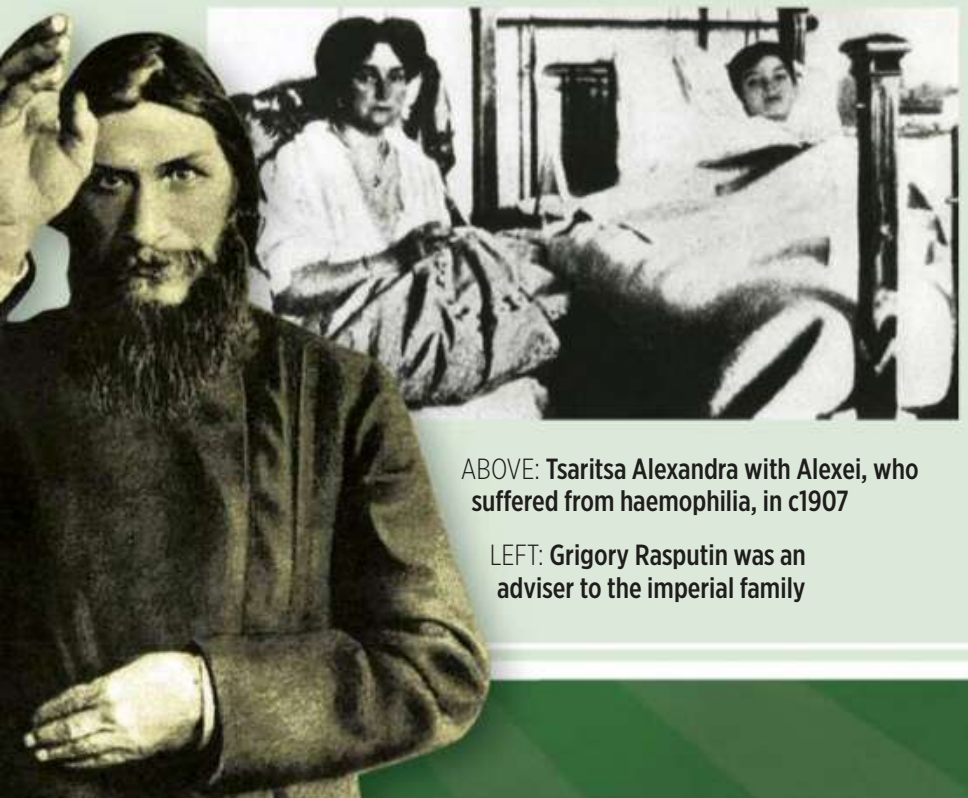
"AROUND 1.6 MILLION RUSSIAN SOLDIERS HAD BEEN KILLED BY DECEMBER 1916"

Nicholas II reads out his declaration of abdication to Duma representatives

The tsaritsa, Alexandra, was not popular with her husband's family and, as a German, dislike of her intensified among the Russian people after World War I began in 1914. As Nicholas became involved in Russia's military efforts, Alexandra was increasingly left in charge.

Alexandra was very fond of the self-proclaimed holy man Grigory Rasputin and relied on him for spiritual and emotional support, especially during Alexei's periods of illness. Rasputin was widely believed to be a womanising drunkard, and ministerial changes made by Alexandra in her husband's absence were suspected to be a result of Rasputin pulling strings behind the scenes. Whether Rasputin could really help Alexei – as he claimed – is unclear, although the tsaritsa believed fully in his abilities. Their relationship was a gold mine for the gossip mills of the time, which suggested that Rasputin exerted an unhealthy influence over the imperial family, and even went so far as to suggest that he had seduced the tsaritsa – and that he was interfering in matters of state. Rasputin would ultimately begin to symbolise everything the Russian people believed was wrong with tsarism.

"Alexandra was a very domineering wife," says Rappaport, "and even more autocratic than her husband – very narrow-minded and slavishly religiose. She was her own worst enemy. In many ways, you can say that her close friendship with Rasputin was the fatal flaw, because the gossips condemned them both, whether or not the rumours were true. Things might have been different had Nicholas had a different wife."



ABOVE: **Tsaritsa Alexandra with Alexei, who suffered from haemophilia, in c1907**

LEFT: **Grigory Rasputin was an adviser to the imperial family**

THE END OF A DYNASTY

In February 1917, in the face of rebellion and widespread unrest, and having lost the support of his armed forces, many of whom had joined the rebels, Nicholas II agreed to share power with the Duma. But it was too little, too late, and his offer was refused. The Petrograd Soviet then issued Order Number 1, which demanded the military to obey only the orders of the Soviet and not those of the Provisional Government, and on 2 March, Nicholas II was formally asked to abdicate. After attempting to pass the throne to his brother, Grand Duke Michael (who refused), Nicholas reluctantly complied with the demand. In that instant, 300 years of Romanov rule came to an end.

ECONOMIC COLLAPSE AND PUBLIC UNREST

Russia's importation of goods from abroad ceased during World War I. The railways (which were generally undeveloped to begin with) were taken over for military use, making food and resources difficult to transport around the vast country. By 1916, inflation had reached 200 per cent and life was especially difficult for the Russian poor, as prices soared higher and higher.

The loss of agricultural workers to the war effort made internal food production difficult. Russia's agricultural methods were still quite antiquated compared to the rest of Europe, relying on a huge amount of manpower. With food in short supply and prices rising, starvation became widespread – especially in the cities of Petrograd and Moscow – leading to unrest and strikes: the Russian people began to realise that autocracy and tsarism would not solve their problems and they needed change.

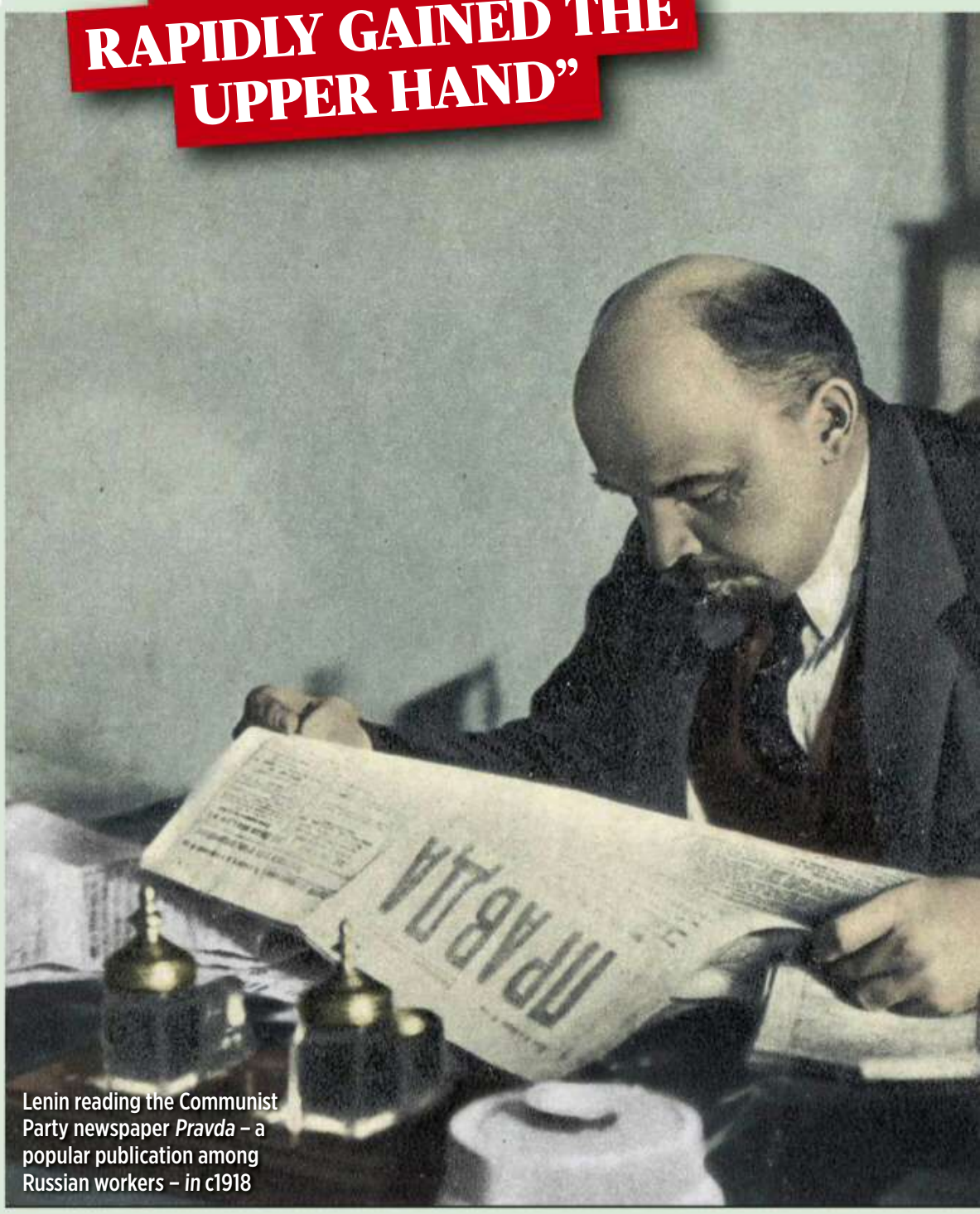
German soldiers occupying Poland (of which some was part of the Russian empire during WWI) hand out food to peasants

DID YOU KNOW?

PEOPLE POWER

More than 200,000 protesters gathered in Petrograd on 24 February 1917, shortly after the rationing of bread. Many were striking workers calling for better working conditions and protesting against food shortages.

"LENIN'S PARTY RAPIDLY GAINED THE UPPER HAND"



Lenin reading the Communist Party newspaper *Pravda* – a popular publication among Russian workers – *in c1918*

THE RISE OF REVOLUTIONARIES

Since the end of the 19th century, radical socialist parties had been forming and spreading ideas, such as the eradication of tsarism and the creation of a worker-run government. In 1898, the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party (RSDLP) was established in Minsk with Lenin as one of its key members. The party was inspired by the ideas of German philosopher Karl Marx, and its members believed that Russia would have to undergo industrial development in order for a socialist revolution to be successful. During a congress in 1903, the party split into two factions – the Bolsheviks with Lenin at the helm, and the Mensheviks.

Helen Rappaport explains what was behind this ideological split: "There were a lot of arguments and conflict over what kind of a line RSDLP was going to take. Some wanted it to be much more aggressively politically violent while others wanted something a bit softer. It was after days of rowing and haranguing, particularly from Lenin, that the party finally split. The Bolsheviks wanted a French-style Jacobin group of real hardline intellectuals – the brightest brains of the movement – to control, lead and really dictate the path through revolution. The Mensheviks, on the

Russian prime minister Petr Stolypin was assassinated in 1911

MAIN: **Lenin depicted travelling on a train back to Russia in 1917, following the February Revolution**

LEFT: **Portraits of key leaders of the October Revolution, including Lenin (*top left*) and Joseph Stalin (*bottom centre*)**

other hand, wanted a much more open and all-embracing, broad-based party. After the split, the two groups went their separate ways in opposition to each other, with Lenin's party rapidly gaining the upper hand."

FANNING THE FLAMES

Even though they were not based in Russia for the majority of the early 20th century, these socialist parties were still gaining traction in Russia. The Bolshevik newspaper, *Pravda*, was popular with workers. Through the agrarian reforms of Prime Minister Petr Stolypin and the Okhrana (the section of the Russian police department that dealt with left-wing political terrorism and revolutionary activity), membership of revolutionary movements had dropped, but many continued illicitly underground.

Revolutionaries in Russia did celebrate successes before the events of 1917 though, and in 1911, Stolypin was killed in Kiev by an anarchist revolutionary. Stolypin was someone who, Rappaport says, "could and did make a difference briefly to Russia". He intended to undertake reforms that would modernise Russia as an economic force, while maintaining the autocratic power of the throne.

Lenin, by then living in exile in Switzerland, was surprised to hear of the February Revolution and the fall of the tsar, and swiftly made plans to return to Russia. He was assisted by the German government, which saw internal conflict in Russia as being beneficial for them.

On 3 April, Lenin arrived in Petrograd and delivered a 90-minute speech condemning the Provisional Government that had taken over from the tsar and calling for a social revolution. His directives, which became known as the April Theses, included an end to the war, transfer of power to the proletariat and the poor, as well as the formation of an organisation that would spread revolution across the world.

WORDS: EMMA SLATTERY WILLIAMS

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VLADIMIR LENIN

FROM REVOLUTIONARY TO DICTATOR

A look at the life of the fanatical Marxist who led the Bolsheviks to power in 1917 and built, on a foundation of war and oppression, the world's first communist state

With no Vladimir Lenin, there would almost certainly have been no October Revolution in Russia in 1917. That means no communist state, no Soviet Union, and no knowing how different the 20th century could have been. And it all began in 1887 when 17-year-old Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov took his first steps towards becoming *the* Russian revolutionary. Having grown up in a comfortable, loving home in Simbirsk – later renamed Ulyanovsk in his honour – he became angry and bitter at the execution of his elder brother, Alexander, for his part in an attempted assassination of Tsar Alexander III.

Ulyanov went on to be expelled from Kazan University for anti-government protests and, following a brief law career, moved to the capital of St Petersburg to throw himself into life as a revolutionary. A fanatical Marxist, poring over *The Communist Manifesto* and *Das Kapital*, Ulyanov envisioned the end of capitalism at the hands of the working classes of the world, but not as some nebulous theoretical goal. To him, a revolution could be forged in practice, and this formed the basis of his prolific writings on politics, philosophy and economics.

"LENIN EXPECTED THAT RUSSIA WOULD INSPIRE GLOBAL REVOLUTION"

THE PATH TO POWER

Ulyanov's first major work, *The Development of Capitalism in Russia* (1899), would be written in Siberia, where he had been exiled (and also where he married fellow revolutionary Nadezhda Krupskaya). He spent years away from Russia, living in Europe and building an international reputation. That did not quell his influence in Russia, though. In his 1902 pamphlet, *What Is To Be Done?* – published under the name Vladimir Lenin – he called on Marxists to form a party as the "vanguard" of the proletariat drive to socialist revolution, which became a pillar of Leninism.

The party he prepared as that vanguard became the Bolsheviks, a faction that split from the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party. They were disciplined and zealous, and had a gifted tactician as a leader. Lenin kept his Bolsheviks together amidst unrest and division for over a decade after the Russian Revolution of 1905, which he saw as the "dress rehearsal" for things to come.

By 1917, Russia was a powder keg. World War I left the nation depleted, leading to one revolution early in the year that overthrew the tsarist regime, ending centuries of imperial rule. Yet Lenin sensed an even greater opportunity. Smuggled into Russia with German help, he became a critic of the bourgeois Provisional Government, which had replaced Tsar Nicholas II, and won over the workers' councils, or soviets, with promises of bread, peace and a government of workers, peasants and soldiers.

Lenin would be the man who launched the second revolution of 1917. He persuaded the Bolsheviks to take action, and prepared the Red Guard volunteers for an armed uprising. In the so-called October Revolution, a near-bloodless coup, he became chairman of Russia's new executive, the Sovnarkom.

Lenin quickly ended Russia's involvement in World War I. Not everyone supported the move, considering the ruinous terms of the peace treaty, nor his next to disband the Constituent Assembly. Such was the opposition among bourgeoisie, monarchists and rival socialists that civil war broke out. Fighting between the Bolshevik Red Army, commanded by Leon Trotsky, and counterrevolutionary 'Whites' lasted three years, during which the Bolsheviks murdered the tsar and the imperial family – completing, after 30 years, the plot of Lenin's brother.

When Lenin himself barely survived an assassination attempt in 1918, a period of political repression began. The Red Terror saw the executions of 100,000 opponents at the hands of the Cheka, the secret police. Lenin could be ruthless and cared little for the suffering of the Russian people. The huge losses of the Russian Civil War as a whole, combatants and civilians combined, were up to 10 million.

AN IMMORTAL LEGACY

Russia became a one-party state under the Bolsheviks, now the Communist Party, and Lenin transformed the country's ideological framework. Once the Red Army had won the Civil War, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) was officially formed on 30 December 1922, with Lenin expectant that Russia would inspire global revolution. But with millions dead and an all-powerful leadership, Lenin laid the foundations of communist totalitarianism under Joseph Stalin.

Lenin did grow concerned about Stalin's power, but a number of strokes from 1922 left him unable to act decisively, and he died, aged 53, on 21 January 1924. To legitimise the regime without him, the party used his face and name on everything – St Petersburg, which had been called Petrograd since the war, then became Leningrad – and his corpse was embalmed.

To this day, people can visit Lenin's body in Moscow and look upon the man who changed not only Russia, but the course of the 20th century itself.

GETTY IMAGES

THE DEATH OF A DYNASTY

On one fateful night in July 1918, Bolshevik revolutionaries brought the 300-year-old Romanov dynasty to a brutal and bloody end. We revisit the imperial family's tragic final chapter

Tsar Nicholas II and Tsaritsa Alexandra surrounded by their five children, 1913. Five years later they would all be murdered

GETTY IMAGES

On the night of 16–17 July 1918, a father, mother, their five children and four of their staff were shot and stabbed to death in the basement of a house in Ekaterinburg, near the Ural Mountains. The victims were former tsar Nicholas II, his wife Alexandra, son Alexei (13), and daughters, Olga (22), Tatiana (21), Maria (19) and Anastasia (17).

When Nicholas II abdicated in March 1917, the imperial family was initially held under house arrest in the Alexander Palace, about 14 miles south of Petrograd. Despite the curtailment of their freedom, the family was permitted to maintain a number of staff and were able to live quite comfortably, without the pressures of imperial life. At the end of July, the family was transferred to the town of Tobolsk in western Siberia, where they enjoyed time outdoors, while various monarchist groups tried to conceive a viable rescue plan.

But rescue never came. By May 1918, after the Bolsheviks had consolidated their power, the entire former imperial family had been secretly moved to The Ipatiev House in Ekaterinburg near the remote Ural Mountains known ominously as the 'The House of Special Purpose'. Four members of the imperial household accompanied them: Evgeniy Botkin, the imperial physician, Anna Demidova, a maid of the Alexandra's, head footman Alexei Trupp, and head cook Ivan Kharitonov.

Life in Ekaterinburg was harsher than their previous imprisonments. The Romanovs were permitted to walk around the grounds twice a day and prayed every morning, but they were not allowed to look out of the windows, on pain of death, and guards armed with machine guns surrounded the building. The guards were on constant watch for escape attempts and liked to enter the family's rooms unannounced – often mocking them and making crude jokes. A former member of the Cheka (the much-feared early Soviet secret police agency), Yakov Yurovsky, was installed in early July 1918 to command the guards – he would ultimately supervise the family's execution.

RUNNING OUT OF TIME

As civil war raged between the Bolsheviks and those who wanted to remove them from power, discussion among Bolshevik leaders turned to what should be done with the former imperial family. Initially, the plan had been for Nicholas to stand trial for what they saw as his crimes against Russia, but there were real fears that the family might be rescued and used to aid the counterrevolutionary movement.

In early July, a group of Czech Legion troops (Czech and Slovak deserters from the Austro-Hungarian army who had allied with counterrevolutionary forces against the Bolsheviks) were approaching Ekaterinburg. The family could hear their gunfire and this sealed their fate. The Bolsheviks could not risk the

News of the tsar's abdication in March 1917 made headlines across the globe. But it would not be the only revolution to take place that year

"All the News That's Fit to Print."

The New York Times.

THE WEATHER

NEW YORK, FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 1917.—TWENTY PAGES.

VOL. LXVI...NO. 21,601

REVOLUTION IN RUSSIA; CZAR ABDICATES; MICHAEL MADE REGENT, EMPRESS IN HIDING; PRO-GERMAN MINISTERS REPORTED SLAIN

RAILWAY STRIKE ORDERED TO BEGIN TOMORROW NIGHT

Managers and Heads of Brotherhoods End Final Conference. Both Defiant.

WILSON NOW THE ONLY HOPE

President Seems to Have No Authority, but May Make Appeal to Patriotism.

FIVE DAYS' GRACE FOR MILK

Government Heads Hold a Mysterious Conference

FRYATT'S FATE FOR OUR GUNNERS

German Threat to Put to Death Crews of Any Armed American Ships They Capture.

WARNING IN MUNICH PAPER

LONDON HAILS REVOLUTION

Expected Czar's Overthrow and Sees Brighter Prospects for the Allies.

THINK THE COUP DECISIVE

Well-Informed Observers Believe the Patriotic War Party Has Made Its Control Secure.

FEAR NO SEPARATE PEACE

With Weak Ruler Deposed and Pro-German Advisers Ousted, They Predict New Victories.

Duma Appeals to the Army for Unity Against Foe; Gives Pledge of No Weakening or Suspension of War

People in Revolt Burn and Slay ... of Russia's Capital

ARMY JOINS WITH THE DUMA

Three Days of Conflict Follow Food Riots in Capital

POPULACE TAKE UP ARMS

But End Comes Suddenly When Troops Guarding Old Ministers Surrender.

CZAR FINDS CAPITAL GONE

Returns from Front After Receiving Warning from Duma and Gives Up His Throne.

Empress Reported Under Guard or Hiding From Angry People

Leading Figures in Russian Revolution.

DID YOU KNOW?

A LUCKY HOUND

The sole survivor of the Romanov massacre was Joy, Tsarevich Alexei's spaniel, who was rescued by an officer in the British Expeditionary Force. Joy lived out the rest of his life in the royal kennels at Windsor.

ABOVE: **The Tsarevich Alexei with his dog, Joy. The spaniel was found and rescued after the murders**

RIGHT: **Grand Duchess Tatiana and a lady-in-waiting pictured with Nicholas II during the family's spell under house arrest at the Alexander Palace, 1917**

GETTY IMAGES X 4

Tsar Nicholas II and his five children on the roof of a greenhouse during their imprisonment at Tobolsk – one of the last known photographs of the imperial family

"THE IMPERIAL FAMILY ENJOYED TIME OUTDOORS WHILE VARIOUS MONARCHIST GROUPS TRIED TO CONCEIVE A VIABLE RESCUE PLAN"

The bullet-ridden basement of The Ipatiev House, pictured soon after the murders. Once they were dead, the family's bodies were doused with acid and dumped in unmarked graves

Romanovs falling into enemy hands. Tragically the Czechs did not take the city until the end of July, by which time the family had been killed.

Officially, local Bolsheviks were said to have made the decision to kill the family, but evidence suggests that Lenin himself had previously authorised the murders. He was careful, though, not to put anything in writing that might link him to the deaths in order to keep his hands clean of any involvement in the murder of children.

BULLETS AND BAYONETS

A few hours after going to sleep on the night of 16 July, Nicholas, his family and servants were woken abruptly and taken to a basement room where they were told to wait for trucks that were supposed to be coming.

Yurovsky then informed Nicholas that he had been sentenced to death and his Cheka squad began firing. As the main target, Nicholas is believed to have died almost instantly; those who survived the initial shots were subsequently bayonetted to death.

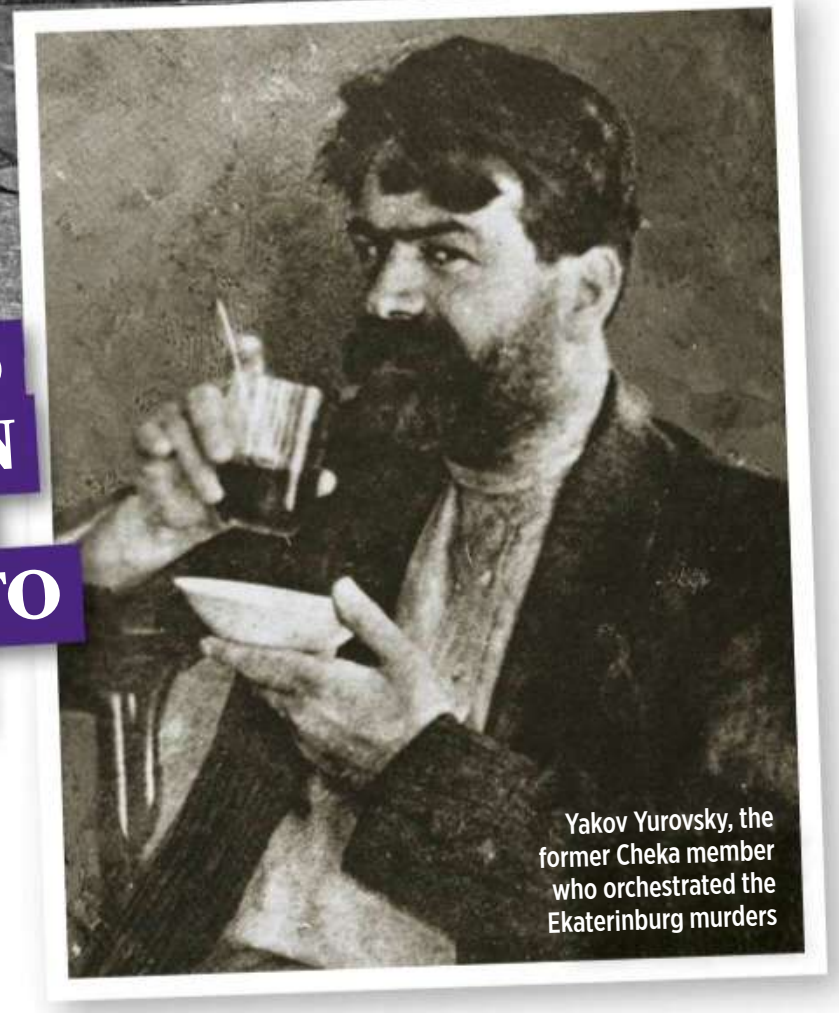
"LENIN WAS CAREFUL NOT TO PUT ANYTHING IN WRITING THAT MIGHT LINK HIM TO THE DEATHS"

The frenzied massacre in the small basement room took 20 minutes and left 11 dead. Their bodies were thrown into a shallow mine, but as this was not deep enough, they were then moved to another grave where they were doused in acid to render the bodies unrecognisable – the Bolsheviks did not want their grave to become a place of pilgrimage and veneration. The killers attempted to burn the bodies of the two smaller children, Maria and Alexei, in a separate grave.

The following day, the Bolsheviks released a statement announcing that Nicholas was dead but that the rest of the imperial family had been taken to safety.

Public reaction to news of the tsar's death was largely indifferent, though, claims Helen Rappaport: "By the time they [the Romanovs] were murdered, the family had been completely out of the public eye for nearly 16 months – since March 1917.

"It's important to remember that this was a time of terrible political turmoil in Russia, of economic collapse and starvation. People were just preoccupied by other things, like staying alive. The fate of the tsar mattered very little in the grander scheme of things. When



Yakov Yurovsky, the former Cheka member who orchestrated the Ekaterinburg murders

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The exterior of The Ipatiev House, c1918. Unlike previous spells under house arrest, the family's time in Ekaterinburg was spent indoors under armed guard

Tsar Nicholas II (*left*) bore a striking resemblance to his cousin, King George V (*right*). However, George decided against bringing him to Britain

the Russian people were finally told that Nicholas had been killed, there was certainly no breast-beating or wailing on the streets. People had suffered so much throughout the revolution and the war, that their former tsar's death was seen as just one out of millions of others."

Nicholas and his family weren't the only Romanovs to be killed during the Russian Revolution. Nicholas' brother, Grand Duke Michael, was killed in June 1918, and within 24 hours of the Ekaterinburg murders, other members of the extended Romanov family met brutal ends at the hands of the Bolsheviks, not far away at Alapaevsk.

The truth about the fate of the Romanovs was shrouded in mystery for many years; the Bolsheviks denied their deaths and allowed rumour and counter-rumour to circulate. It wasn't in Lenin or the Bolsheviks' interests to admit they had murdered the imperial family, so when rumours of survivors emerged, they weren't disputed. The deaths of Alexandra and the children weren't officially acknowledged until 1926 and it wasn't until the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, that the full, bloody story was finally revealed.

WORDS: EMMA SLATTERY WILLIAMS

COULD THE ROMANOVS HAVE BEEN SAVED?

Europe looked on in horror as the Romanov dynasty collapsed in 1917 – not since the execution of Louis XVI during the French Revolution had a monarchy crumbled so dramatically. But could anyone have done anything to save them?

Before the outbreak of World War I in 1914, Britain and Russia had been close allies for many years. But as war raged on, the rescue of the imperial family became far less of a priority compared to keeping Russia in the war. Whatever George V's thoughts were, he had no powers as a constitutional monarch to bring his cousin, Nicholas II, and the imperial family to Britain.

Nevertheless, an offer of asylum for the duration of the war was eventually offered by the British government, but was not pursued – it's believed that George was worried about the stability of his own monarchy and what the impact of bringing a controversial and 'bloody' ruler to Britain could be on his own reign. Alexandra's German heritage was an additional concern, as anti-German sentiment was high in Britain.

The view across most European royal houses was that the Romanovs were simply too much of a threat to be granted asylum. Norway and Sweden made token gestures of help but did not offer to get them out, nor did Denmark. Alfonso XIII of Spain was one of the few who offered asylum to the family, but the Romanovs had been killed before this could happen.

"Ultimately, the whole situation was taken out of the hands of every foreign government, whether they wanted to help or not, because it was the Petrograd Soviet who would make the final decision," explains Helen Rappaport. "And the Soviet was adamant that the former tsar should remain in Russia. We need to look at the facts, the geography and the political situation: it was impossible, no one could have got them out. And the Romanovs themselves didn't want to abandon Russia."

Few European monarchies could, or would, do anything to help Tsar Nicholas II and his family after their fall from power

RIVALS OF THE REVOLUTION

We examine the lives of three wildly different revolutionaries, each of whom sought power and influence following the collapse of Russia's tsarist regime

WORDS: JON BAUCKHAM

ALEXANDER KERENSKY

The deposed prime minister

For a few frenzied months, Alexander Kerensky (1881–1970) was the most powerful man in Russia. Following the abdication of Tsar Nicholas II in March 1917, the Socialist Revolutionary Party politician was appointed justice minister in Prince Georgiy Lvov's Provisional Government, before being promoted to war minister and eventually succeeding Lvov in the highest office of all.

Indeed, for a brief time, it seemed as though Kerensky – a former lawyer who had devoted his career to defending revolutionaries – would be the figurehead of post-tsarist Russia. Through impassioned speeches, often with tears rolling down his cheeks, Kerensky promised to lead the nation towards a brighter future, devoid of the corruption that typified the old regime.

Yet, by the end of 1917, he would be driven from power by Vladimir Lenin: a fellow middle-class intellectual from the same hometown, and ironically, a man Kerensky's schoolteacher father had once taught.

WAR WEARINESS

The seeds of Kerensky's demise were arguably sown in the summer of 1917, when, as war minister, he declared his intention to continue the costly (and deeply unpopular) conflict against Germany. The decision proved disastrous. Following a failed offensive on the Eastern Front, weary soldiers rebelled against their officers and deserted in their droves, with many returning home to oppose the new regime.

Although Kerensky was victorious in suppressing Bolshevik-supported unrest in Petrograd (after which he succeeded Lvov as prime minister), he was forced to turn to the Bolshevik militia for assistance when General Lavr Kornilov, the Russian army's commander-in-chief, launched a coup against the Provisional Government.

Kornilov was arrested before he could reach the capital, but Kerensky had already paved the way for his own downfall.

In October, it would be this same group of Bolsheviks – now armed with government weapons – that would force him into a humiliating escape from the Winter Palace.

After failing to mount a rebellion, Kerensky spent time in Britain, France and Australia, before settling in the US. He died in New York City, aged 89.

"THROUGH IMPASSIONED SPEECHES, KERENSKY PROMISED TO LEAD RUSSIA TOWARDS A BRIGHTER FUTURE"

LEON TROTSKY

The military mastermind

The man who engineered the Red Army's success during the Russian Civil War was not always known as Leon Trotsky. Hailing from a Jewish farming family, Trotsky was born Lev Davidovich Bronstein in 1879, only adopting his famous moniker while fleeing exile from Siberia in 1902.

Indeed, Trotsky had been a fierce opponent of the tsarist regime long before he helped lead the second of 1917's two revolutions. The bespectacled intellectual had originally joined the Russian Social Democratic Labour Party (RSDLP) as a teenager, before his aforementioned escape from Siberia – where he had been exiled for participating in radical activities – took him to London and a job with the party newspaper, *Iskra*.

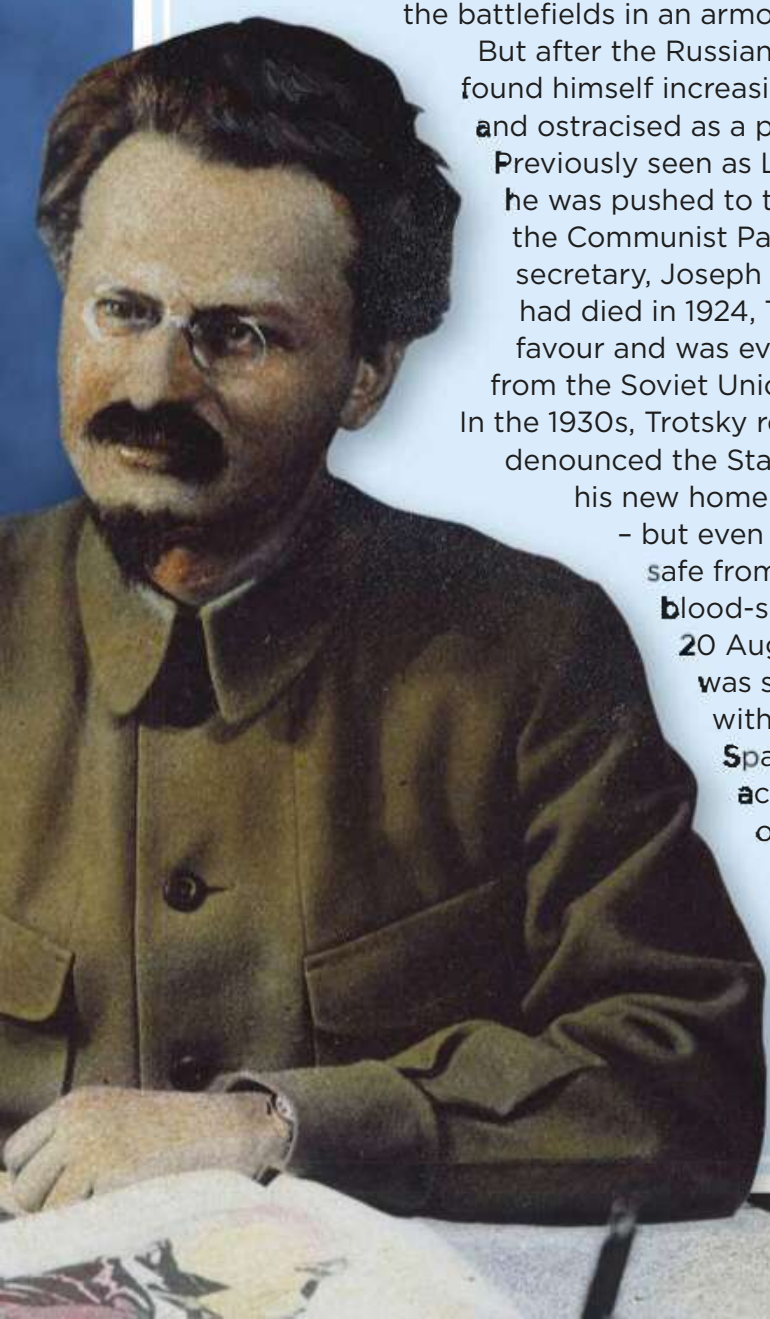
But following the RSDLP's split in 1903, Trotsky did not follow Vladimir Lenin into the radical Bolshevik faction, and instead remained determinedly independent. In fact, it was only while briefly imprisoned by the Provisional Government after his return to Russia in 1917 that Trotsky fully committed himself to the Bolshevik cause. Elected chairman of the Petrograd Soviet that September, he helped topple Alexander Kerensky the following month.

FROM HERO TO OUTCAST

In the wake of the October Revolution, Trotsky was tasked with building a fighting force to defend the new Bolshevik regime. Thanks to his strong abilities as a military tactician, he guided his Red Army to victory over a coalition of 'Whites' in 1920, regularly touring the battlefields in an armoured train.

But after the Russian Civil War, Trotsky found himself increasingly demonised and ostracised as a political heretic. Previously seen as Lenin's successor, he was pushed to the sidelines by the Communist Party's new general secretary, Joseph Stalin. Once Lenin had died in 1924, Trotsky fell out of favour and was eventually banished from the Soviet Union altogether.

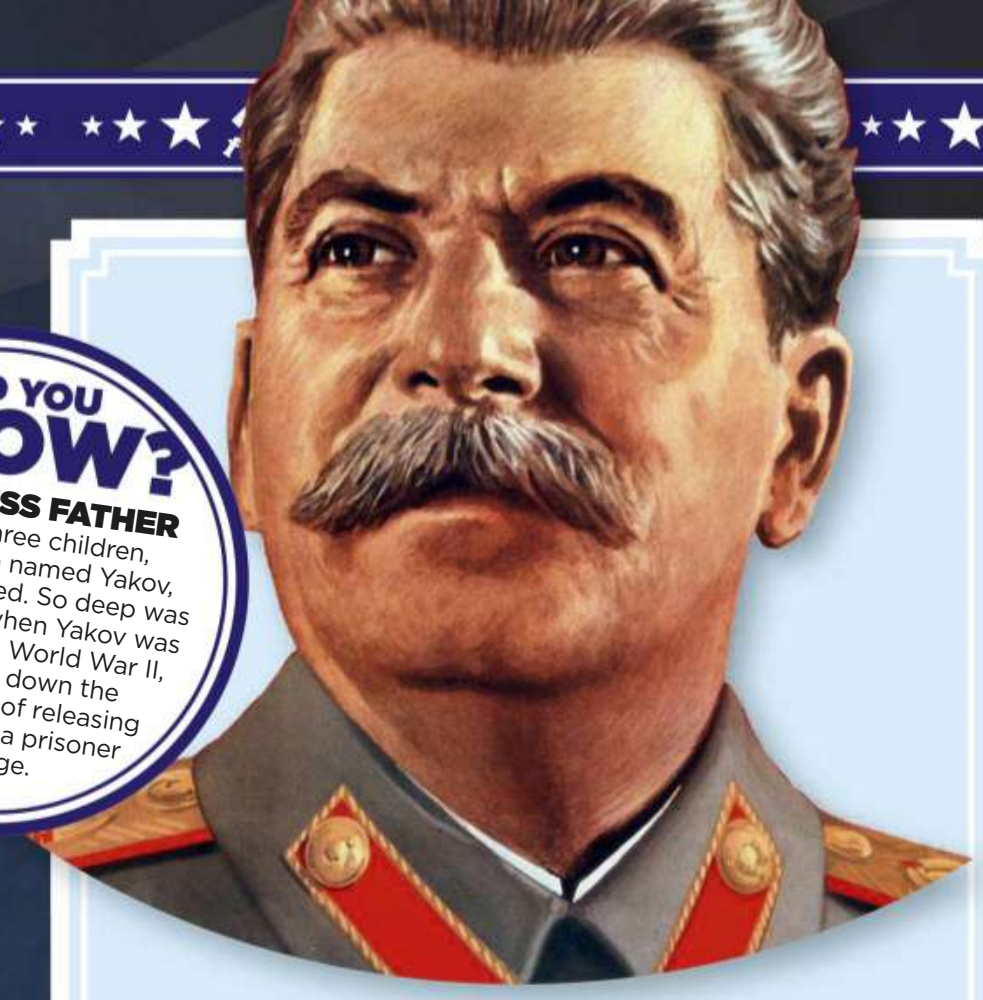
In the 1930s, Trotsky regularly denounced the Stalinist regime from his new home in Mexico City – but even there, he wasn't safe from the dictator's blood-soaked purges. On 20 August 1940, Trotsky was struck on the head with an ice axe by a Spanish communist acting upon Stalin's orders, and died the next day. The dictator's former comrade was now permanently silenced.



DID YOU KNOW?

A RUTHLESS FATHER

Stalin had three children, including a son named Yakov, whom he despised. So deep was his dislike, that when Yakov was captured during World War II, Stalin turned down the Germans' offer of releasing him as part of a prisoner exchange.



JOSEPH STALIN

The power-hungry tyrant

Few people in history have wielded as much power as Joseph Stalin, but the dictator's beginnings could not have been humbler. Born in 1878 in Georgia (then part of the Russian empire), the future revolutionary – christened Ioseb Dzhugashvili – grew up in hardship. Beaten by his alcoholic father and scarred by smallpox, he was sent to a seminary to train for the priesthood. However, the Georgian soon traded God for Karl Marx, and, aged 20, he quit the seminary and immersed himself in radicalism. In the early 1900s he became an acolyte of Vladimir Lenin, and was involved in the planning of several acts of armed banditry to raise funds for the Bolshevik cause.

THE PATH TO THE TOP

After spells in and out of prison, Stalin (a name he adopted in 1912, derived from the Russian word for 'steel') arrived in Petrograd in 1917 and established himself as a key figure within the Bolshevik Party, resuming editorship of its official newspaper, *Pravda*.

Crucially, he was on the party's central committee when it overthrew the Provisional Government in October, and – following Lenin's death – was able to exploit the resulting power vacuum to cast his main rival, Leon Trotsky, aside. Unlike Trotsky, who wanted to ignite a global revolution, Stalin saw his priority as strengthening the Soviet Union from within, declaring a policy of "socialism in one country".

Having seen off his leadership opponents by 1928, Stalin assumed control of the Communist Party, and, by default, the Soviet Union. During the dictator's quarter-century as premier, he ruled with increasing tyranny: his efforts to bring farms under state control triggered widespread famine, while his 'purges' of the late 1930s sent up to 1.2 million people to their graves.

Although Stalin's role in defeating Germany during World War II would prove his finest hour, it didn't stop his successor, Nikita Khrushchev, from introducing a policy of 'destalinisation' to cleanse the state of Stalin's image after his death in 1953. His powerful cult of personality is still very much alive today.

ALAMY X2, GETTY IMAGES X1

THE FINAL COUNTDOWN

Months of unrest in post-tsarist Russia ended in a revolution that would change the course of history

After the fall of the tsarist regime in March 1917, Russian society was anything but settled. Along with turmoil on the battlefields and economic unrest on the home front, there was little consensus on the shape of political advancement. The Provisional Government was balanced upon a series of fragile coalitions, while the return of Vladimir Lenin would further radicalise public debate. Three summer into autumn months would witness civil disquiet and failed coups, before the final outcome in October.

3 JULY
REBELLIOUS RUSSIANS TAKE TO THE STREETS

"Take power, you son of a bitch, when it is handed to you!"

These words angrily yelled by a Petrograd protester and set to a soundtrack of gunfire peppering the air articulated the frustrations of hundreds of thousands of impatient rebels who had gathered outside the city's Tauride Palace, in a mass protest later dubbed the July Days. The target of the heckle was Viktor Chernov, the moderate leader of the Petrograd Soviet (a soviet being a council representing workers and soldiers). The anger felt on the city streets had caused Russia's Provisional Government to fold in on itself and the prime minister to resign. The crowd expected the Soviet to occupy the power vacuum. It didn't. Instead, to howls of derision and consternation, Chernov called for the Provisional Government to be allowed to reconvene.

The protesters had differing backgrounds: industrial workers were joined by deserter soldiers from Petrograd Garrison, along with sailors from the Kronstadt naval base on the island of Kotlin, 20 miles out in the Gulf of Finland from Petrograd. There was one issue uniting them: the Provisional Government's resoluteness in escalating the WWI war effort, despite the negative effect on both the economy and domestic life. Soldiers were deserting in huge numbers, many persuaded by the Bolsheviks, whose objectives were to undermine the war effort and see Russia pull out of the conflict. In June, the 1st Infantry Reserve had drafted a resolution. "The slaughter continues," it read, "and there is an industrial collapse in the making. We see the rich lining their pockets from this criminal war and we sense and know that a sinister and terrible famine is approaching."

The war minister Alexander Kerensky ignored the growing disillusionment and declared a major offensive to push back Austro Hungarian forces in the region of Galicia. While initially successful, the 20 day long Kerensky Offensive in July was ultimately responsible for a catastrophic loss of life among Russian troops, the news of which prompted the unrest on Petrograd's streets. But the 'July Days' wouldn't yield the change that was sought. While the protesters took control of the capital for a couple of days, during which Chernov managed to escape with his life, the protests were devoid of clear leadership. The government buildings weren't seized and no power grab was made. Lenin's Bolsheviks, at

BELOW RIGHT: **Bolshevik fighters pose atop a Provisional Government light armoured vehicle in November 1917**

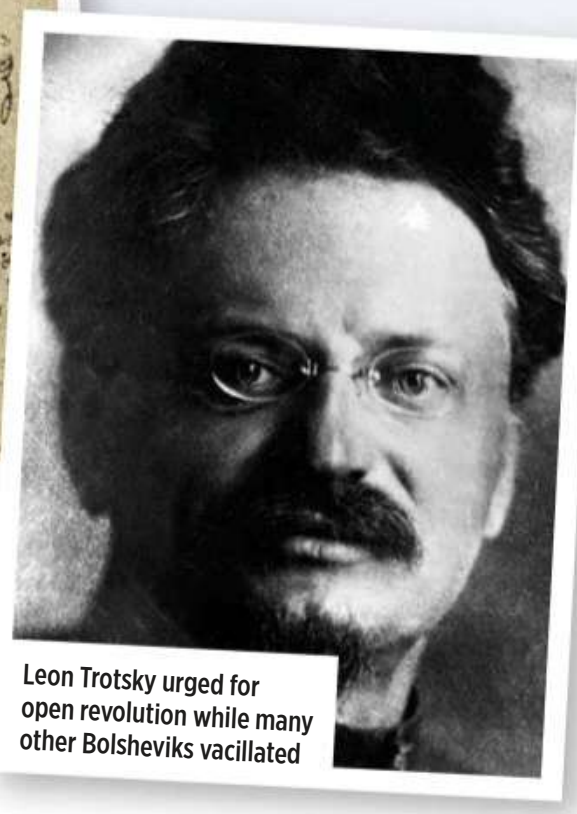
BELOW: **Viktor Chernov resigned shortly after the July Days fizzled out**

Government troops fire on demonstrators during the unrest of July 1917

GETTY IMAGES X6

RIGHT: **Lenin used a false passport to escape into Finland after an order for his arrest was issued in July 1917**

BELOW: **Soldiers in Palace Square. The army's loyalty was not absolute, with many troops aiding the insurrection**



Leon Trotsky urged for open revolution while many other Bolsheviks vacillated

"Kerensky suspected that Kornilov, a fierce advocate of martial law, was planning a coup of his own"

that point not the majority faction in the Petrograd Soviet, believed it too early to seize power. But that time would come.

27 AUGUST
A MILITARY COUP IS BREWING

After the July Days protests fizzled out, the Provisional Government was restored to power, this time under the leadership of Alexander Kerensky, who succeeded Prince Lvov as prime minister. Believing Lenin's words to be the chief fuel of the unrest, the government put the Bolsheviks under the closest scrutiny, arresting many of its key players. Lenin, named in the press as a German spy for his anti-war pronouncements – and also widely discredited following the discovery of telegrams that showed the Bolsheviks had been taking German money to fund their campaign – fled to Finland. But it would turn out that Kerensky's most immediate rival was closer to home.

Still sore from the failure of the offensive in Galicia, Kerensky appointed a new commander-in-chief of the Russian Army: Lavr Kornilov. Kornilov, eager to weaken any future Bolshevik-led uprising, mobilised his troops to Petrograd, quite possibly to remove the city's Soviet.

Kerensky, however, viewed this movement of troops with concern. He suspected that Kornilov, a fierce advocate of martial law, was actually planning a coup of his own rather than guarding the government against one from the radical edge of Russian politics. Whether Kornilov did want to stage a coup or whether he was trying to push the Provisional Government into taking a tougher line with the Bolsheviks, is still debated. But on 27 August, Kerensky sent his commander-in-chief a telegram, relieving him of his duties and demanding his recall to Petrograd. The telegram failed to halt, or even slow, the progress of Kornilov's soldiers towards the city.

While Kerensky dithered over his next move, the Petrograd Soviet swung into action. The following day, the Committee for Struggle Against Counterrevolution was established, its members including representatives of workers, soldiers and peasants, along with trade union councillors and the Petrograd Soviet itself. The Bolsheviks were heavily represented on the committee; their number included the recently released from prison Leon Trotsky.

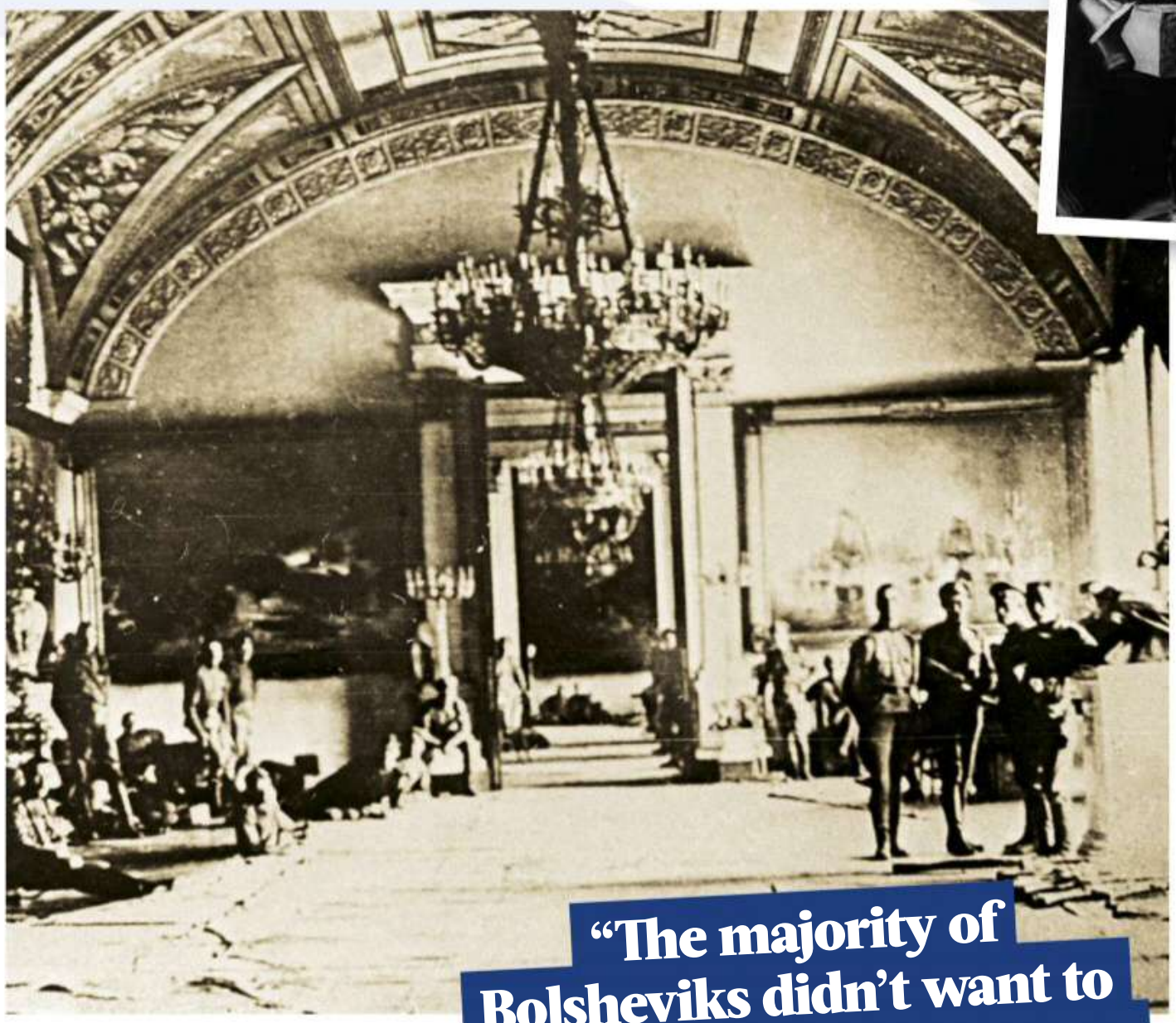
In the event of combat breaking out when Kornilov's troops arrived in Petrograd, 400,000 rifles and ammunition had been supplied by the Provisional Government, many of which ended up in the possession of the Bolshevik Red Guards. Not that any fighting broke out. Any attempted Kornilov coup was snuffed out within a few days, largely down to soviet agents embedding themselves in the approaching army ranks and being able to persuade Kornilov's soldiers to desert. Railworkers also caused disruption, slowing the troops' progress.

No coup may have ensued, but the Kornilov Affair was significant in at least three ways. Not only did it weaken the authority of Kerensky's Provisional Government, but it also established the Bolsheviks as a powerful political force. Furthermore, it put weaponry in the hands of its Red Guards.

26 SEPTEMBER
TROTSKY TAKES CHARGE OF THE PETROGRAD SOVIET

After the Kornilov Affair, Kerensky's Provisional Government released, on bail, many of the prominent Bolsheviks it had arrested following the July Days. Within the Petrograd Soviet, Bolshevik authority was very much in the ascendancy, with the Menshevik and Socialist Revolutionary factions weakened by their support for the Provisional Government and its policy of maintaining, even expanding, the war effort. In the final week of September, Trotsky was elected chairman of the Petrograd Soviet. His continual anti-war propaganda was finding an audience among the proletariat (the working classes), too; Bolshevik party membership rose by a third in just one month.

With the political climate conducive to Bolshevik aims, Lenin returned from ▶



“The majority of Bolsheviks didn’t want to consent to a possibly hasty and ill-considered coup”

ABOVE: **The Winter Palace was the official residence of the Russian emperors, yet the Bolsheviks took control of it with little resistance**

ABOVE RIGHT: **Though there was little bloodshed, the Winter Palace was nonetheless damaged (and looted) during the October Revolution**

GETTY IMAGES X2

◀ Finland. While in exile, he had urged the immediate overthrow of the Provisional Government. Delay, he believed, could be grave. His reasoning was multiple: there was no guarantee that, in such a volatile political atmosphere, the current popularity of the Bolsheviks would be sustained for any great length; in the interim, Kerensky might actually welcome another Kornilov-style military coup, just to deny a Bolshevik grab of power; and the advancing Germans might even capture Petrograd before too long. The majority of Bolsheviks, though, didn’t want to consent to a possibly hasty and ill-considered coup, preferring to wait for the support of the Congress of Soviets, due to be held in late October.

24 OCTOBER
PRIME MINISTER KERENSKY RAIDS BOLSHEVIK PREMISES

In the meantime, Trotsky busied himself with the formation of the Military Revolutionary Committee, the body charged with organising the defence of Petrograd from either revolutionary or military forces through the deployment of armed militant factions. The mobilisation of Red Army units wasn’t excessively clandestine: if a revolution was being put together, it was being done in clear sight. And it was being done with the Provisional Government showing little outward concern. Those outside the government were a little alarmed and believed Kerensky had massively miscalculated by not executing Lenin and other Bolshevik leaders when they had the chance. The British ambassador Sir George Buchanan displayed a mixture of bemusement and fear when he noted how he “could not understand how a government that respected itself could allow Trotsky to go on inciting the masses to murder and pillage without arresting him”.

Kerensky did eventually take action. On 24 October, he instructed troops loyal to him to raid premises involved in the production of Bolshevik propaganda. Printing presses were severely damaged, phone lines cut. Was it too little, too late? Was he just delaying the inevitable? Trotsky, denouncing the government’s actions as pre-emptive counterrevolutionary measures, urged an immediate response. Once again, more moderate Bolsheviks wanted to apply the brakes, fearing that troops still loyal to the government might be greater in number than thought.

25 OCTOBER
THE BOLSHEVIKS ENTER THE WINTER PALACE

Lenin and Trotsky weren’t to be held back. The insurrection started the following morning, with Red Guards and troops sympathetic to the Bolshevik cause moving through Petrograd and securing positions both strategic and symbolic. The main target was the Winter Palace, which throughout the day was surrounded by more and more Bolshevik forces. In reality, the palace was a soft target. It was being defended by a few thousand inexperienced loyalists, many of whom – as revealed by an American journalist who managed to get into the building during the afternoon were drunk and hungry. If there were to be a battle, it would be a tame, one-sided affair. And so it proved.

The 1,500-room Winter Palace was occupied later that evening with little resistance. The actions of the loyalist troops defending it were largely inconsequential; these soldiers largely chose to either flee or swap sides. Upstairs, government ministers fled to a dining room, where they hid until their mass arrest.

Across the city, the Congress of Soviets was being held to the sound of middle-distant gunfire. The more moderate Soviet members – the Mensheviks and the Socialist Revolutionaries – were dismayed that the Bolsheviks had gone ahead with the (largely bloodless) coup. Both sides’ positions were entrenched and intractable, and the congress ended when the moderates walked out in protest. This was a politically naïve move: it simply left the Bolsheviks with total power of the Soviets.

The next morning, Lenin issued a proclamation announcing the creation of a new government – The Council of People’s Commissars – and calling for an immediate armistice with Germany, the redistribution of land to the peasantry and the introduction of full democracy in the army. A few months earlier, the notion of the minority Bolsheviks seizing control of the country would have been unlikely at best. Now they were the party of all power, revolutionaries about to rewrite the future for the now-socialist Russia.

WORDS: NIGE TASSELL

CONFLICT WITHIN

Lenin's October Revolution may have succeeded, but fresh turmoil was to come. We examine the Russian Civil War and the fight to topple the Bolshevik regime

Red Army chief Leon Trotsky regularly visited his troops, delivering morale-boosting speeches on the front line

ABOVE: **A 1918 poster urges Russian citizens to donate weapons to the Red Army cause**

BELOW: **The bodies of Bolshevik soldiers frozen in the snow. Around nine million people are thought to have died in the conflict**

In the wake of the October Revolution, Vladimir Lenin's Bolshevik government was not universally recognised, and Russia was plunged into a bitter civil war. The Red Army, founded by Leon Trotsky, sought to defend what the revolution had achieved, while groups of counter-revolutionary forces, known as the Whites (comprising monarchists and liberals alike), attempted to topple the Bolshevik regime.

Historians have struggled to pinpoint the precise moment that the Civil War began, but many view the October Revolution as the catalyst, with the period that followed marked by a deterioration in law and order as the Bolsheviks attempted to consolidate their grip on power. What is clear, however, is that by the spring of 1918, there were elements both inside and outside Russia working to depose Lenin's government.

On 3 March 1918, Bolshevik politician Grigory Sokolnikov signed a treaty ending Russia's participation in the war against Germany. But Russia's former allies, hoping to re-establish the Eastern Front and remove the Bolshevik threat, sent troops to help the Whites. Many major powers feared that communism risked spreading to their own countries, so stayed on fighting in Russia long after the Armistice in November 1918. France (with a significant Greek force) occupied Odessa, Japan controlled Vladivostok, while Britain sent forces into the north.

In October 1919, a coalition of White forces attempted to seize Petrograd, but Trotsky personally rallied his Reds and successfully defended the city. The defeat, inflicted by an army that now included former tsarist officers among its ranks, was the final straw for many of the foreign powers, which decided to abandon the cause altogether. Without this vital support, the last major White army was defeated in 1920, sparking a mass exodus of White Russians into exile from Odessa and other Black Sea ports.

But the turmoil engulfing Russia was not yet over. One of Lenin's long-term goals had been to foment a worldwide communist revolution, beginning with newly independent Poland (formerly part of the German, Austro-Hungarian and Russian empires). However, before Lenin could make the first move, the Polish government – eager to expand its territory – orchestrated a capture of Russian-controlled Kiev in May 1920. Lenin reacted by launching an invasion of Poland, hoping that the Polish people would turn against their government, but the Russians were roundly defeated. The Treaty of Riga, signed in March 1921, swiftly put an end to Lenin's ambitions and resulted in Poland being granted a large amount of land in Belorussia and Ukraine.

Despite the failures in Poland, Bolshevik rule was firmly established in Russia by the end of 1921 – a victory widely attributed to the fact that the Reds were united by a single cause. The various factions fighting the Bolsheviks may have shared a common enemy, but they lacked a cohesive military strategy and had vastly different agendas. Whereas some Whites wanted to resurrect the Provisional Government, others sought the establishment of some form of constitutional monarchy, which made it difficult to gain widespread support.

Additionally, by adopting an economic policy dubbed 'war communism', Lenin had ensured his military machine was well oiled: he nationalised Russia's industry, utilised slave labour, and forcibly took grain from rural peasants to feed urban centres.

Overall, the Civil War and its ensuing economic effects took a heavy toll on the Russian people. It is estimated that more than nine million people perished through fighting, famine, disease and political executions – many more than the nation had suffered during World War I.

WORDS: EMMA SLATTERY WILLIAMS

GETTY IMAGES X3

Pro-democracy supporters in Vilnius, Lithuania, in 1991 – they're marking the 50th anniversary of the June Uprising against Stalin's regime

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT

The revolutions that had transformed Russia would see it grow in strength, but the new regime would not survive the 20th century

In 1922, under Lenin's rule, Russia became the dominant constituent part of a new Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) the world's first constitutionally socialist state. It was comprised of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic, the Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Transcaucasian Socialist Federative Soviet Republic.

The civil war had greatly damaged the Russian economy, and this combined with severe droughts, failed harvests, economic blockades, the requisition of grain and seed grain from peasants and a disrupted transport system culminated in a terrible famine between 1921 and 1922. Although Lenin did eventually accept international aid, more than five million people are thought to have died, either through starvation or associated diseases. Millions also fled the new USSR, in particular those who had supported the Whites during the civil war. Known as 'White émigrés', they included members of the imperial government, businessmen, monarchists and officers, as well as poets and writers.

No political parties other than the ruling Communist Party of the Soviet Union were allowed within the USSR, and soon Lenin held power at least as great as any tsar. With complete control over government and the media, the USSR was in effect a totalitarian dictatorship. The Bolshevik secret police that Lenin had established in 1917 was replaced by the State Political Directorate (known as the GPU) and the Gulag system of forced labour camps was introduced. Around 18 million people including dissenters, criminals and prosperous peasants, known as 'kulaks' are thought to have been incarcerated in the camps between their introduction in 1919 and Stalin's death in 1953. Hundreds of thousands of these prisoners died of starvation, disease, exhaustion or execution.

EXIT LENIN, ENTER STALIN

Lenin, who had been increasingly unwell since 1921, suffered his first stroke in May 1922. Fearing imminent death, he dictated a letter now known as Lenin's Testament, in which he pointed out the dangers of a split within the party and outlined the strengths and weaknesses of its leaders, without specifying who should succeed him. He did, however, recommend that Stalin be removed from his position as general secretary. The full content of Lenin's Testament was kept a secret from most of the Soviet Congress, however, and would not be shared for many decades.

After Lenin died on 21 January 1924, the Soviets created a Leninist cult of the personality that promoted the dead leader as a saint like figure in the fight for a communist state. Religious imagery was replaced with images of Lenin, and his body embalmed and kept on permanent display in a mausoleum in Moscow, where it remains today became a site of pilgrimage. Petrograd was renamed Leningrad in his honour,

ABOVE: **Gulag inmates were not simply imprisoned, but forced to carry out hard labour**
RIGHT: **A crowd of thousands mourn Lenin, who acquired a saint-like status following his death in 1924**

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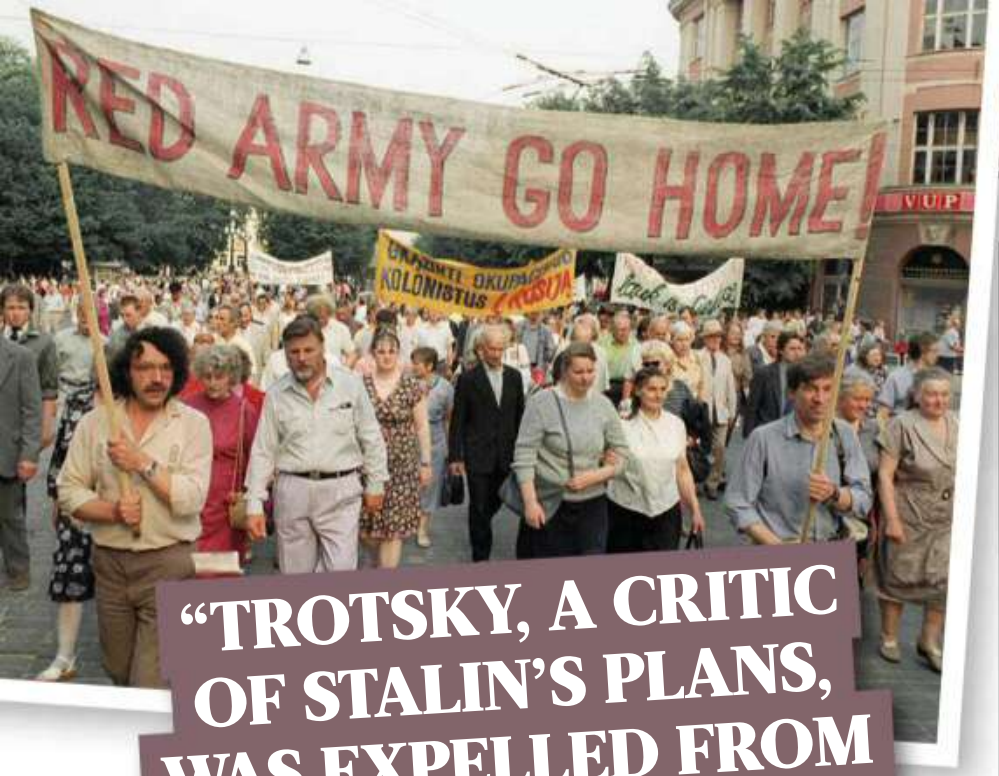


"TROTSKY, A CRITIC OF STALIN'S PLANS, WAS EXPELLED FROM THE COMMUNIST PARTY IN 1927 AND EXILED"

a change that persisted until a public referendum in 1991 returned it to its pre-World War I name of St Petersburg.

There was now a power vacuum in the USSR. As the mastermind behind the Bolshevik seizure of power, as well as the Red Army's success during the Russian Civil War, Leon Trotsky was seen as an obvious choice of leader for many. He was seen by some, however, as a more 'Westernised' member of the party, due to his time spent in exile, and many resented the trust Lenin had placed in him.

Joseph Stalin, on the other hand, had played a less prominent role than Trotsky in the Bolshevik takeover, but his position as general secretary of the Communist Party had allowed him to accrue great influence and power, and Lenin himself had relied on Stalin's administrative ability, before becoming critical of him. Three other members – Nikolay Bukharin, Grigory Zinoviev and Lev Kamenev – were also contenders for leadership.

A power struggle ensued, but Stalin's nationalistic brand of Marxism – 'socialism in one country' – and his focus on strengthening the USSR appealed to many in the Communist Party, and by 1929 he had become dictator of the USSR. Trotsky, a critic of Stalin's plans, was demonised, expelled from the Communist Party, and exiled. He was assassinated in 1940, on Stalin's orders, in Mexico.

But Trotsky was far from the only victim of Stalin's bloodlust: between August 1936 and March 1938, Stalin carried out a 'Great Purge' to calm conflicts within the party. Thousands were killed, including those suspected of attempting coups.

Under Stalin's rule, the USSR would become a world superpower, and play a major role within the Allied victory over Nazi Germany in World War II – though at a cost, as the USSR suffered more losses in the conflict than any other combatant. After 1945, Stalin would subsequently gain control over much of Eastern Europe, creating a 'buffer zone' of Soviet satellite states intended to shield the USSR from the West. The scene for the lengthy Cold War, which lasted four decades, was set.

Stalin died in 1953. His successor, Nikita Khrushchev, would condemn him for perverting communism, and claim that Lenin had never wanted him in power. The Soviet government would also later admit the huge scale of atrocities committed under Stalin's rule.

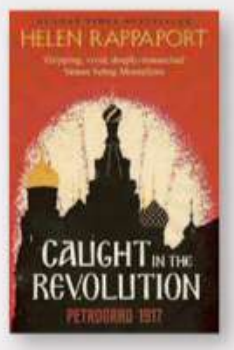
The USSR eventually collapsed on 25 December 1991 – the regime that had seized power in the Russian Revolution and ruled for 74 years was no more.

WORDS: EMMA SLATTERY WILLIAMS

GET HOOKED

If we've whetted your appetite for the Russian Revolution, explore the topic further with our pick of books, films and podcasts

BOOKS



Caught in the Revolution: Petrograd, 1917

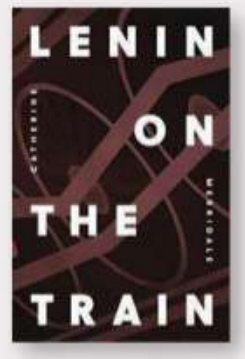
By Helen Rappaport (Hutchinson, 2016)

Drawing on a rich trove of material, much of it previously unpublished, Helen Rappaport explores the outbreak of the Russian Revolution through eye-witness accounts left by foreign nationals – including suffragette leader Emmeline Pankhurst – who saw the drama unfold.

The Penguin History of Modern Russia: From Tsarism to the Twenty-First Century

By Robert Service (Penguin, 2020)

Robert Service explores the complex, changing interaction between rulers and ruled from Tsar Nicholas II, through the Russian Revolutions of 1905 and 1917; from Lenin and Stalin through to Gorbachev, Yeltsin, Putin and beyond.



Lenin on the Train

By Catherine Merridale (Allen Lane, 2016)

In April 1917 Vladimir Ilyich Lenin travelled back to Russia by train. His country was at war and his route would take him through enemy territory. Catherine Merridale follows in the leader's tracks, creating a gripping account of events in Russia and Europe at one of the tensest moments of World War I.

ONLINE AND AUDIO

▶ **The Romanovs** *(BBC Radio 4):* Ernie Rea and historians, including Helen Rappaport, discuss Nicholas II on an episode of *Beyond Belief*. Listen at *bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0bfxxm8*

History Extra

▶ **For podcasts, features, quizzes, interviews and more on Russian history, visit the Russia hub on our website: *historyextra.com/locations/russia***

WATCH

Empire of the Tsars: Romanov Russia with Lucy Worsley

(available on BBC iPlayer)

Historian Lucy Worsley travels to Russia to tell the extraordinary story of the dynasty that ruled the country for more than three centuries – the Romanovs.

October: Ten Days That Shook the World

(streaming on Amazon Prime)

Commissioned by the Soviet government in 1927, this film recreates the events of 1917 – from the crumbling of the Russian monarchy to the ousting of the Provisional Government.

The price of beauty

From poisonous creams to X-ray hair removal treatments, **Lucy Jane Santos** delves into the dangerous history of cosmetics – and reveals how a simple glow-up could cause you to blow up

BBC TWO

Complements the forthcoming BBC Two series *Powder, Paint, Poison*

A model applies lipstick, 1967. Beauty products have played an important role in people's lives for thousands of years – even if the ingredients have sometimes been questionable

Arsenic

An article by Dr Johann Jakob von Tschudi (1818–89) sparked widespread interest in arsenic's rumoured cosmetic benefits

In 1851, doctor and explorer Johann Jakob von Tschudi wrote an article in a Viennese medical journal about the residents of Styria, southeast Austria. Readers learned that while the Styrians lived a conventional, hardworking existence in this mountainous region, they differed from most people in one, curious way: a dedication to eating arsenic trioxide, commonly known as 'white arsenic'.

Various arsenical compounds were already in widespread use by this period, both as a renowned (and feared) poison and as a medicine. One of the most celebrated arsenic based therapeutics was 'Fowler's solution', a liquid substance developed during the 1780s containing potassium arsenite. It was initially recommended as a treatment for malaria, but soon gained a reputation as a general tonic, an effective treatment for eczema and other severe skin disorders, and a cure for virulent diseases such as cholera.

But the existence of arsenic eaters (known as 'toxicophagi') in Austria stimulated a renewed interest in arsenic's beneficial effects. In particular, there was a great deal of excitement over stories that the Styrians not only reported increased endurance and energy, but that they had acquired improved complexions, with sparkling eyes and rosy cheeks. In effect, arsenic could make you beautiful.

While it was routinely reported that excessive and persistent use of arsenic could be at best an irritant, and at worst, fatal, its popularity increased. Indeed, there did seem to be some short term benefits to users' complexions not least because arsenic dilates the capillaries, giving the temporary effect of a flattering flush to the cheeks.

Recognising a growing trend, a number of companies soon began offering arsenic based cosmetics. By the mid 1890s, consumers could buy products such as 'Dr James P Campbell's Safe Arsenic Complexion Wafers' and even caramels made with tiny quantities of arsenic. The popularity of such products waned in the years immediately after World War I, but soaps laced with the substance were still on sale well into the 1930s.

ABOVE: **A poster promoting an Italian spa resort and its naturally occurring arsenical waters, c1920**

LEFT: **Arsenic-based medicines were a popular fixture in high street chemists by the late 19th century**

Cantharidin

ABOVE: **Martha Matilda Harper, thought to be shown in this c1914 photograph, built a formidable American haircare empire**

RIGHT: **Dried blister beetles were used as an aphrodisiac, as well as in cosmetics**

The blister beetle (a collective term that actually includes around 7,500 different insect species) excretes a fluid known as cantharidin a poisonous agent that causes swelling when it comes into contact with the skin. Historically, this phenomenon led the blister beetle also known as 'Spanish fly' to be used as an aphrodisiac, because in small quantities, the secretions trigger an allergic reaction that inflames the genitals.

Preparations made with cantharidin (known as cantharides) were in use for thousands of years. For instance, the Roman historian and politician Tacitus relates a tale about Augustus Caesar's wife, Empress Livia, serving dinner guests a meal laced with Spanish fly to spark illicit activity and leave them vulnerable to blackmail. Meanwhile, the ancient Greek physician Hippocrates writes about the power of blister beetles in helping those suffering from swelling caused by excess water retention a condition then known as dropsy (and now, as oedema). Patients affected by other ailments such as ulcers, piles and skin disorders were also regularly treated with medicines made from the crushed and powdered bodies of these insects.

But despite being known to cause nasty blisters, along with other unpleasant side effects such as nausea and dysphagia (difficulty swallowing), cantharidin found its way into several well known brands of hair tonics on sale during the 19th century.

Powdered beetle (plus sage, salt, quinine and alcohol) was included in the Moscano hair restorers invented by Martha Matilda Harper (1857 1950), while cantharides were a key ingredient in 'Barry's Tricopherous for the Skin and Hair', trademarked in the 1890s.

It was suggested that the resulting toxic reaction encouraged hair growth, stimulated the blood supply, and rebooted the follicle. An advert for Barry's Tricopherous clarified: "If the pores of the scalp are clogged, or if the blood and other fluids do not circulate freely... the result is scurf, dandruff, shedding of the hair, greyness, dryness and harshness of the ligaments, and entire baldness."

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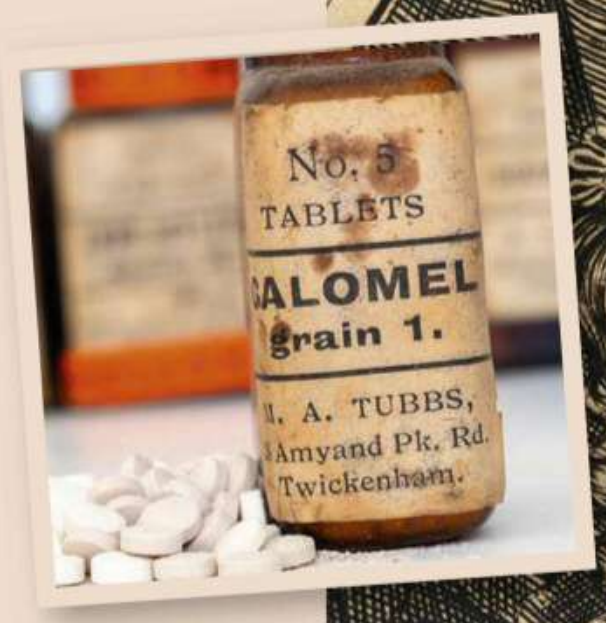
Mercury



Calomel, a toxic medicine containing mercury, was widely used for hundreds of years

Mercury – also commonly known as quicksilver – has a long history of being used to treat skin problems.

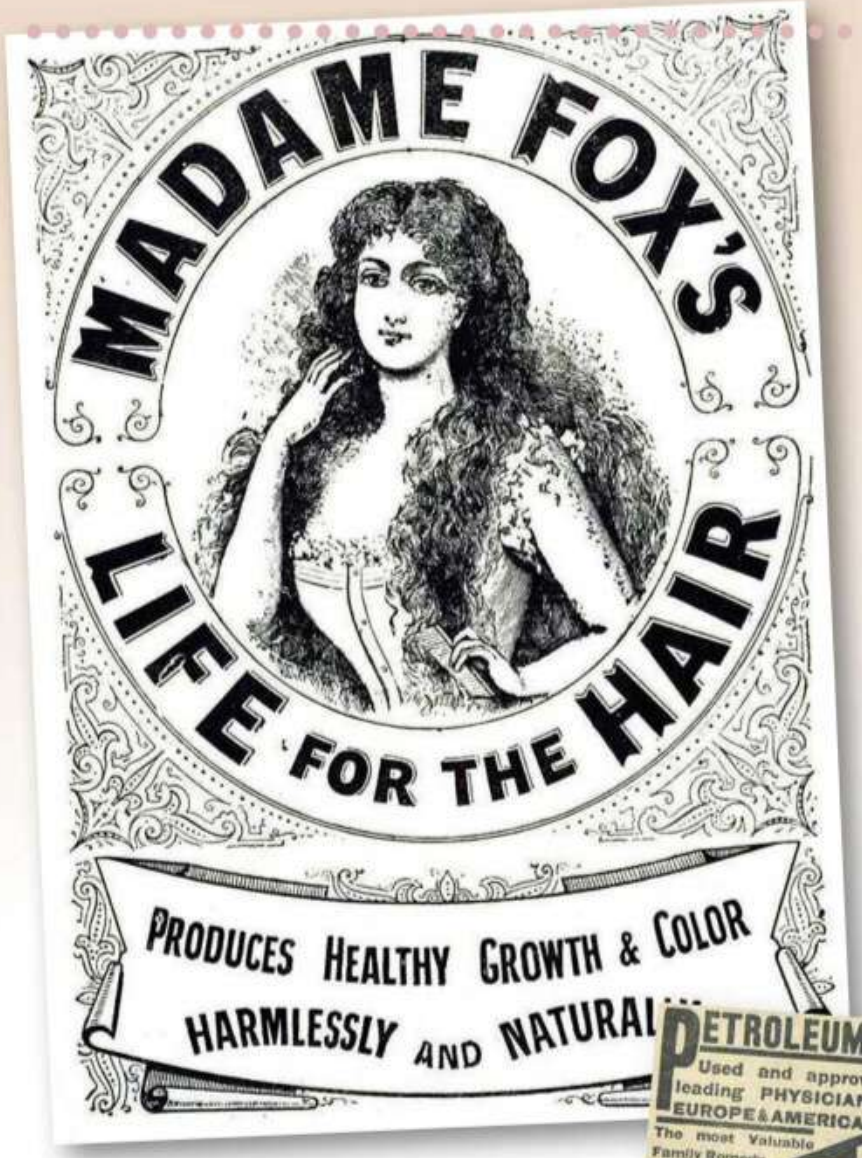
In the 1300s, the metallic element was typically added to animal fat to form a thick cream, which was then slathered on by patients affected by psoriasis and leprosy. A few centuries later, a notable recipe "to procure Beauty" was published in Hannah Woolley's 1675 book *The Accomplish'd Lady's Delight in Preserving, Physick, Beautifying, and Cookery*, instructing readers to "Take four Ounces of Sublimate, and one Ounce of crude Mercury, and beat them together… in a wooden Mortar, and wooden Pestle" before eventually laying the substance on the skin "with Oyl of white Poppy".

Mercury compounds known as mercury salts, which dissolve in water or alcohol, were usually more straightforward to use than the element in its purest form. These were the basis of medicines like calomel, used to treat everything from malaria to yellow fever, as well as products such as Dr T Felix Gouraud's 'Oriental Cream' (launched in the 1880s), which pledged to treat "every blemish on beauty" – so long as you applied the cream using the company's branded velvet sponge.

But the problem with mercury is that it accumulates in the body – the more you use, the more it affects you. It spreads rapidly through tissue, loosens teeth, causes stomach ulcers, damages the nervous system and ultimately causes death.

It wasn't until 1936 that mercury chloride was finally removed from Gouraud's cream and the formula changed for good. However, calomel was not actually struck off the *British Pharmacopoeia* (Britain's official register of professionally approved remedies), until the 1950s, when more effective treatments for ailments such as malaria and yellow fever were discovered, and the fatal dangers of mercury confirmed.

Although her books mainly focused on household management, English writer Hannah Woolley (1622/23–c75) also shared mercury-based beauty treatments



ABOVE: **Contrary to the boasts of many adverts, petroleum hair products were far from 'harmless'**

RIGHT: **A newspaper cutting from 1881 promoting Vaseline, which had been patented in 1865**

Petrol

Outside of Vaseline Petroleum jelly, we don't often associate the use of petrol with beauty. But treatments using this substance, created by distilling and refining petroleum, were popular during the 19th century. Essentially, petrol acted as a dry shampoo, stripping the hair of accumulated dirt and dust.

For home use, you could buy 'Madame Fox's Life for the Hair'. The product, sold as a "positively harmless… infallible hair restorer" was made using "A Deodorized product of petroleum and the Extract of Leaves of the Bay Tree". Hair salons, which until at least the 1920s often didn't have access to hot and cold running water, relied on 'petroleum washes' to clean the hair of their clients while dry. But applying these lotions and then towelling them off sometimes led to fatal consequences.

In July 1897, a woman named Fanny Samuelson died after her hair caught alight during a petrol wash at Monsieur Emile and Co's upmarket salon in London. At the inquest the following month, it was determined that the petrol was so unstable that the friction caused by merely rubbing the saturated hair would have been sufficient to result in combustion.

Another equally unappealing alternative to petrol was carbon tetrachloride, a toxic organic compound that was also widely used as a solvent and as a fire extinguisher. Unfortunately, despite following guidance regarding the importance of ventilation, hairdressers soon found out that it wasn't much safer. The effects of breathing in the solution were similar to inhaling chloroform, and, at high concentrations, could affect the central nervous system and lead to death.

One such fatality occurred in July 1909 at Harrods' hairdressing department when a customer named Helenora Elphinstone Dalrymple died during a hair treatment. Despite the salon ensuring that the windows were open, the inquest determined that Helenora suffered from a pre existing heart condition and her death had been "accelerated by the fumes".

Radium

Helen Cavendish, a stalwart of the high society salons dotted around Mayfair, London, was well regarded by her wealthy clients, and they trusted her judgment when it came to the latest in beauty treatments. So, in 1911, when she launched a range of products utilising the radioactive element radium, they were an almost instant success.

The discovery of radium in the late 19th century had prompted a flurry of experiments to scope the limits of its potential applications. Scientists and, in turn, medical practitioners and entrepreneurs, would struggle to understand the complicated properties of radioactive elements. By the early 1900s, the curious and still mostly unfathomable properties of radium would find expression in a wide range of goods and services aimed at the general consumer.

Most of these products were grounded in the theory of mild radium therapy, proponents of which argued that exposure to radium in minute doses (usually administered through radium laced water or by breathing in radon gas) caused a small amount of stress to biological organisms. This strain would trigger a chain of physiological reactions that worked as a potent metabolic catalyst to improve joint movements, boost the immune system, and trigger a whole host of other positive changes in the body.

Cavendish's Caradium line of products which included shampoo, hair growers and face creams were made with radium water and herbs under the supervision of a self styled "specialist in radioactive toilet preparations". Rival cosmetics on the market included 'White's Radium Hair Food', Frederick Godfrey's 'Renair Radioactive Antiseptic Hair Tonic' and the 'O Radium Hat Pad'.

While the dangers of radium are now much better known, there is little evidence that these products caused great harm to the general public, as the amount of radium (a hugely expensive substance) they contained was minuscule. One victim, however, was the wealthy US socialite Eben Byers (1880 1932), whose excessive consumption of a pain relief drug named Radithor led him to die an agonising death from multiple radiation-induced cancers.

UNDESIRABLE HAIR
REMOVED FOREVER
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TRICHO SYSTEM
TRICHO SYSTEM is the only modern method for the permanent cure of superfluous hair. It scientifically produces a natural baldness where baldness is required. Without injury to the most delicate skin—it is harmless and painless.
TRICHO SYSTEM is represented by 70 branch offices and has been in use for more than 15 years, treating successfully 50,000 cases.
NO CHEMICALS NEEDLES OR WAX
Grand Prix PARIS 1925
Médaille d'Or LIEGE 1926
TRICHO SYSTEM
87 REGENT STREET, LONDON, W.1.
Office at 78 Avenue des Champs Elysées, Paris, opens Jan. 1928

ABOVE: **An X-ray device dubbed 'The Metalix Tube for Therapy' is demonstrated in 1928**

INSET: **A 1927 promotion extols the virtues of the 'Tricho System', used for hair removal**

Women unwind while enjoying a radium-based mud treatment, 1922

ABOVE: **Bottles stamped with the name of Helen Cavendish's highly popular 'Caradium' line**

RIGHT: **A doctor takes no risks while handling radium in 1935**

X-rays

Being a beauty conscious person in the early 20th century was full of twists and turns there was always something new to try. In the early 1900s, the latest craze was X rays, and since discoverer Wilhelm Röntgen had not patented his method of generating them, people were soon building their own machines. All you needed was a cathode ray tube and a power source. Medical experimenters who were using the rays to burn away skin disease and tumours reported a curious side effect: the patient's hair often fell out where the X rays had been trained.

While there is some evidence that individual beauty culturalists experimented with X ray machines on an informal basis during the late 19th century (X rays were discovered in 1895), it was not until the 1920s that this trend exploded in popularity. One of the leading providers was the Tricho Institute. This franchise based organisation was active in both the US and the UK and was owned by a New York physician, Albert C Geyser, along with his son, Frank.

The Tricho System was simple enough: numerous magazine advertisements show what it would have looked like. The client was placed in front of what appeared to be a large mahogany box with a small front window, along with an adjustable metal applicator the size and shape of the area to be treated. A switch was turned on and a timer set for the period of exposure (usually around three minutes). When this time had elapsed, the machine automatically switched off. This procedure would have been repeated up to six times.

While scary to us now, X ray hair removal offered significant short term benefits over alternative treatments available during the period. It was relatively painless, convenient, completely free of odour (an improvement on any creams available at the time) and came with a five year guarantee. It was marketed as the clean, 'modern' method.

Unfortunately, the relatively untrained and inexperienced operators could and did cause severe burns and skin damage. Studies conducted almost 30 years after the peak of this practice also reported cases of women who had visited X ray beauty practitioners in their youth and went on to develop basal cell carcinomas, tumours, necrotic ulcerations and metastases in their lungs and axillary lymph nodes.

LUCY JANE SANTOS is an author and historian with a special interest in the science behind the history of cosmetics

GET HOOKED

READ

Half Lives: The Unlikely History of Radium, by Lucy Jane Santos (Icon Books, 2020)

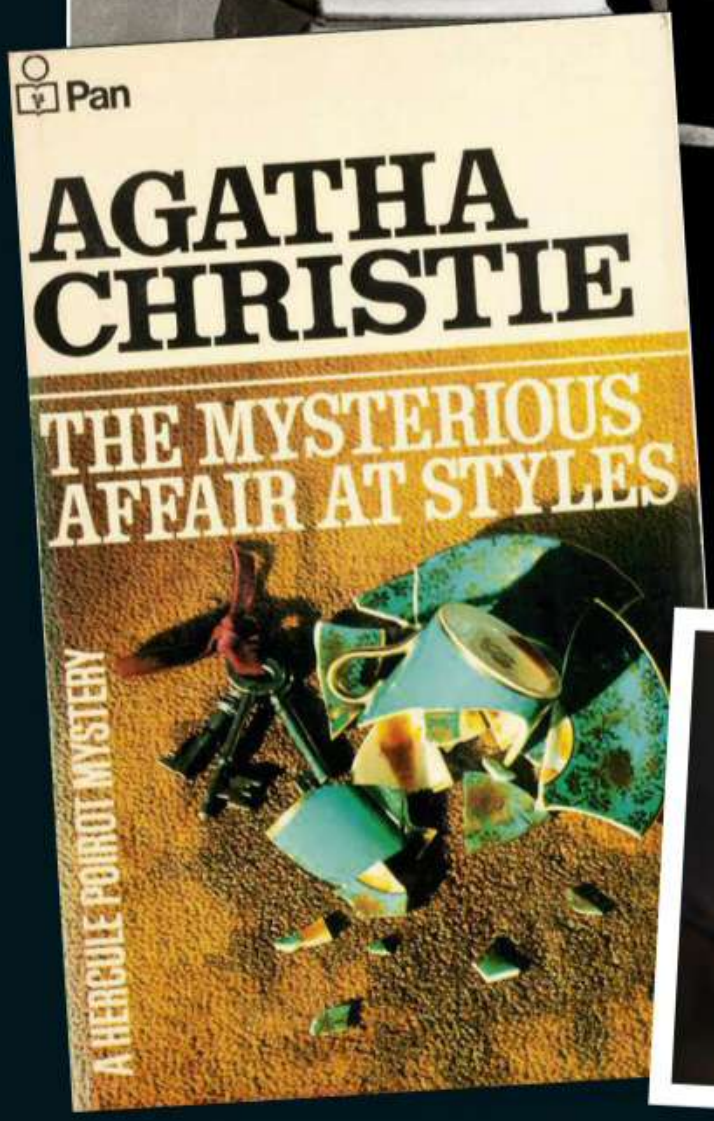
WATCH

Powder, Paint, Poison (final title TBC), which features Lucy Jane Santos, is scheduled for April on BBC Two

GETTY IMAGES X5, ALAMY X2, SONEE PHOTOGRAPHY X1, BRITISH NEWSPAPER LIBRARY X1

Agatha Christie pictured at home in Wallingford (then in Berkshire), 1950. The prolific writer had, by then, seen more than 40 of her novels published

"Christie's popularity extended right across the globe. Her novels kept selling and selling and selling"



LEFT: **David Suchet as detective Hercule Poirot in a TV adaptation of *Murder on the Orient Express*. The character was inspired by Belgian refugees Christie encountered in World War I**

FAR LEFT: **A later paperback edition of Christie's 1920 debut novel, *The Mysterious Affair at Styles***

GETTY IMAGES X3, ALAMY X2

AGATHA CHRISTIE: WOMAN OF MYSTERY

A solitary child who grew up to become a bestselling novelist, no one has shaped the 'whodunnit' genre quite like Agatha Christie. **Nige Tassell** explores the author's storied life and career

For a child who was actively prevented by her parents from learning to read and write until she was eight years old, Agatha Christie made an unlikely literary hero. But hers was a life largely devoted to the written word, a human production line who delivered 66 novels, 14 short story collections and at least 30 plays before her death in 1976. But it's not Christie's prolificness that's so notable, rather the overwhelming success of her art. Two billion copies of her novels have been sold worldwide. Only the Bible and the works of William Shakespeare have sold in greater quantity and both had a few centuries' head start.

Born Agatha Mary Clarissa Miller in Torquay, Devon, in 1890, she was later asked about the voracity of her parents' actions. "It is damned true!" she exclaimed. "But I got my revenge in my life: first because I learned at five years, thanks to my siblings who helped me to read secretly from my parents, and secondly, because I became a novelist!"

AN ELUSIVE FIGURE

Christie's imagination one that came up with such classics of the crime novel genre as *And Then There Were None* and *Murder on the Orient Express* was honed during a rather solitary childhood, one spent largely with her nose in books. At the age of 11, Christie had a poem printed in a London newspaper, and by her late teens had seen several of her creations published in the *Poetry Review*. By this time, she had also written a number of short stories, but found herself familiar with letters of rejection from magazine publishers, despite submitting these stories under male pseudonyms.

She married Archibald Christie in 1914, but the couple spent most of World War I separated, with Archibald sent to various fronts in France and Agatha spending the war working as a Red Cross volunteer in Torquay. During this time, Christie a fan of Arthur Conan Doyle's Sherlock Holmes books took her first crack at writing a crime novel herself. After being rejected by several publishers, *The Mysterious Affair at Styles* was published in 1920, featuring arguably her most famous and enduring character, the Belgian detective Hercule Poirot. Poirot was based on the Belgian refugees with whom Christie had come into contact through her Red Cross work.

Agatha Christie with second husband, Max Mallowan. Her first marriage to Archibald Christie formally ended in 1928

From then onwards, and despite becoming a mother, Christie would publish a new novel every year, each received to growing acclaim. However, the publication year of her sixth novel, *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*, was her *annus horribilis*. In April 1926, Christie's mother Clara died, pitching her into a deep depression, one compounded by her beloved Archie asking for a divorce by August. In December, Christie vanished mysteriously, like a character in one of her novels. Her car was found abandoned above a quarry in Surrey, but there was no sign of the writer. Such was her celebrity by this point that her disappearance made the front page of the *New York Times*. She turned up 10 days later in Harrogate without explanation. Indeed, her vanishing act received not a single sentence in her later autobiography.

Christie would retain an air of mystery about her for the rest of her life. She rarely gave interviews and seldom offered up any meaningful personal information. As her grandson Mathew Prichard would observe, Christie was "a person who listened more than she talked, who saw more than she was seen".

Christie's books did her talking. Now remarried to the archaeologist Max Mallowan but continuing to write under her first husband's surname, she continued to turn out bestseller after bestseller. Aided by dozens of film and TV adaptations of her books, Christie's popularity extended right across the globe. No single author has seen their work translated into more languages 103 at the last count. Her novels just kept selling and selling and selling.

CRITICISM AND CELEBRATION

Despite all these sales or, perhaps, *because* of them Christie wasn't immune from criticism. Linguists have declared that a reading age of nine is sufficient to fully understand a Christie novel, while others have criticised both her absence of literary flair and the lack of depth of her characters, especially in her later works.

The writers Raymond Chandler and Edmund Wilson have both expressed what they regard as her limitations as a novelist, and their observations have been echoed by the contemporary writer John Banville. Banville suggested Christie's works shouldn't actually be regarded as novels: "They more resemble crossword puzzles, and finishing one of them, like finishing a puzzle, leaves one with the same ashen sense of futility and wasted time."

Other writers have been kinder, signalling how Christie's enduring appeal stems from her deft structuring of an intricate plot. "Nobody turns a plot with more skill than Christie," explains the crime novelist Val McDermid. "She understood completely the arc of set up, development and pay off that seems to elude a lot of other writers. She was clever, cunning and original."

That last line was pure Christie. It could have been spoken by Hercule Poirot himself, as he rounded up the suspects and described the attributes of the killer he was about to reveal.

Christie's brief 1926 disappearance, which she never explained, was a major news story

NEWS, SATURDAY, DECEMB

ON THE RESS.

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N FOREIGN SPAPERS.

MRS. CHRISTIE DISGUISED.

Mrs. Agatha Christie as she was last seen (centre), and (on left and right) how she may have disguised herself by altering the style of her hairdressing and by wearing glasses Col. Christie says his wife had

A–Z OF DOWNING STREET

As Britain marks 300 years since its first prime minister took office, **Felicity Day** takes a glimpse behind the world's most famous front door and reveals 26 fascinating facts – from mice to mistresses

BBC RADIO 4

Complements the BBC Radio 4 series *The Prime Minister at 300*

Dozens of prime ministers (and numerous cats) have made 10 Downing Street their home since the iconic residence was first offered to Sir Robert Walpole nearly 300 years ago

Sir George Downing (1623–84) built the famous street bearing his name after securing the land from the Crown

GETTY IMAGES X5, ALAMY X2

A is for... *ANNEXED*

Sir Robert Walpole (1676–1745) is generally considered to have been Britain's first prime minister

▶ In 1732 a grateful King George II presented Sir Robert Walpole with a house on Downing Street. Walpole, who is usually recognised as the first to have and to use the powers of a prime minister, refused the property as a personal gift. Instead, he agreed to accept it as an official residence for the First Lord of the Treasury, to which post – held by Walpole for more than 20 years – "he got it annexed for ever".

The king's gift was, in fact, two houses: one fronting onto Downing Street and a larger one overlooking Horse Guards behind. Walpole moved in only once the two had been combined and refurbished, becoming the first premier to call Downing Street home in September 1735. The house was then actually No. 5, and remained so until 1779 when it was renumbered.

B is for... *BRICKWORK*

▼ No. 10's distinctive brickwork is not actually black – restoration works in the 1960s revealed that the terrace was built with yellow bricks, subsequently blackened by two centuries of inner-city air pollution. A black colourwash is used today to maintain its historic appearance.

"RESTORATION WORKS REVEALED THAT THE TERRACE WAS BUILT WITH YELLOW BRICKS, BLACKENED BY TWO CENTURIES OF POLLUTION"

A temporary sculpture near No. 10 pays homage to the carved figures that adorned the site when it formed part of Whitehall Palace's grounds

C is for... *CONFISCATED*

◀ The land on which Downing Street stands was once part of the ancient Roman, Anglo-Saxon and Norman settlements of Thorney Island. Later home to a brewery, it was in the hands of the Crown by the reign of Henry VIII, sitting on the edge of the king's vast Whitehall Palace site. A house there was leased by Elizabeth I to one of her favourites, Sir Thomas Knyvet, in 1581, and it was his niece, Mrs Hampden, who was residing in it when the land was confiscated under Oliver Cromwell (although she still continued to live there).

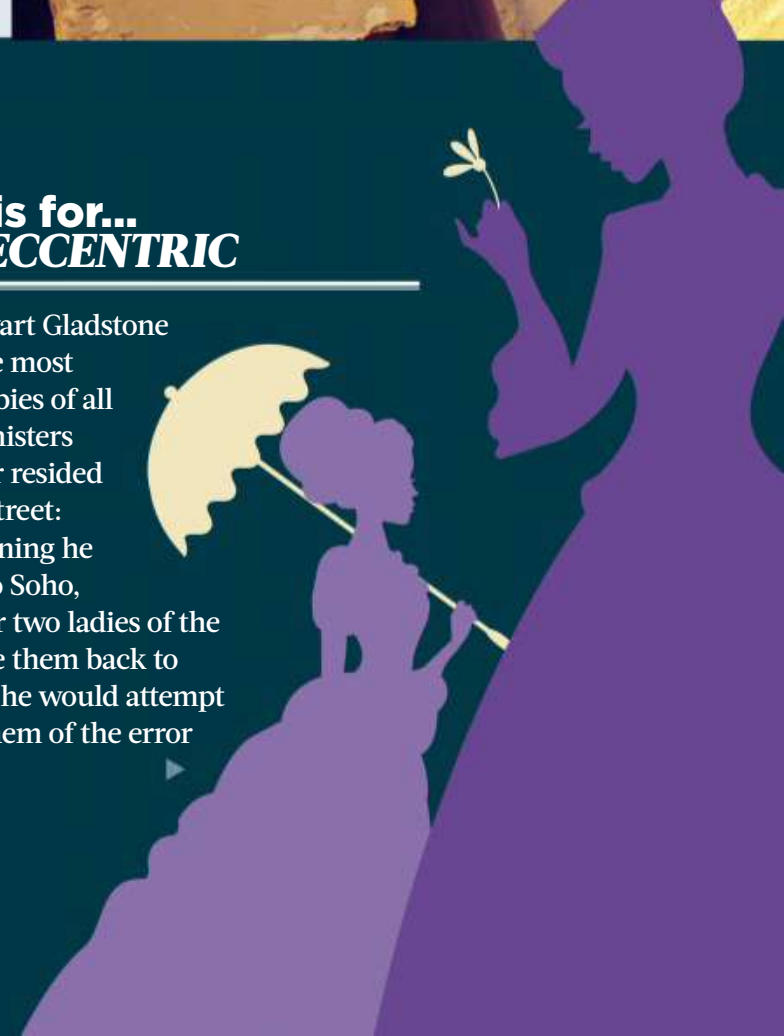
D is for... *DOWNING*

◀ A "perfidious rogue" and "ungrateful villain" was how diarist Samuel Pepys described the man who gave his name to Britain's most famous street. Sir George Downing was a former preacher who became one of Cromwell's most high-profile spymasters in the wake of Charles I's execution in 1649, only to switch sides when the Restoration loomed. Having traded his secrets for a pardon from the exiled Charles II, Downing went on to round up his former comrades for execution, receiving a baronetcy from his grateful king and settling into a new life as a government administrator – admired for his capabilities, but despised for his self-interest.

The former Crown land in Whitehall, Downing had acquired in 1654. Undeterred when the transfer was declared null and void at the Restoration in 1660, Downing brazenly told the king that it had come to him in payment of a debt, and was granted a lease of the site and liberty to build on it. With an eye solely to profit, he erected a series of 15 to 20 terraced houses and gave the street his name.

E is for... *ECCENTRIC*

▶ William Ewart Gladstone had one of the most eccentric hobbies of all the prime ministers who have ever resided in Downing Street: late in the evening he would walk to Soho, pick up one or two ladies of the night and take them back to No. 10, where he would attempt to convince them of the error of their ways.



F is for... FRONT DOOR

▼ The most famous front door in the world has not always been black: in 1908 it was painted green on the instructions of Prime Minister Herbert Asquith, only to go back to black at the end of his tenure in 1916. Originally made of oak, the door was replaced with a heavy-duty steel version for security reasons in the 1990s.

G is for... GHOST

▶ Only one prime minister in history has ever reported a ghostly presence at No. 10. Harold Wilson and his cleaner both claimed they had separately seen a lady dressed in pink in the private apartment.

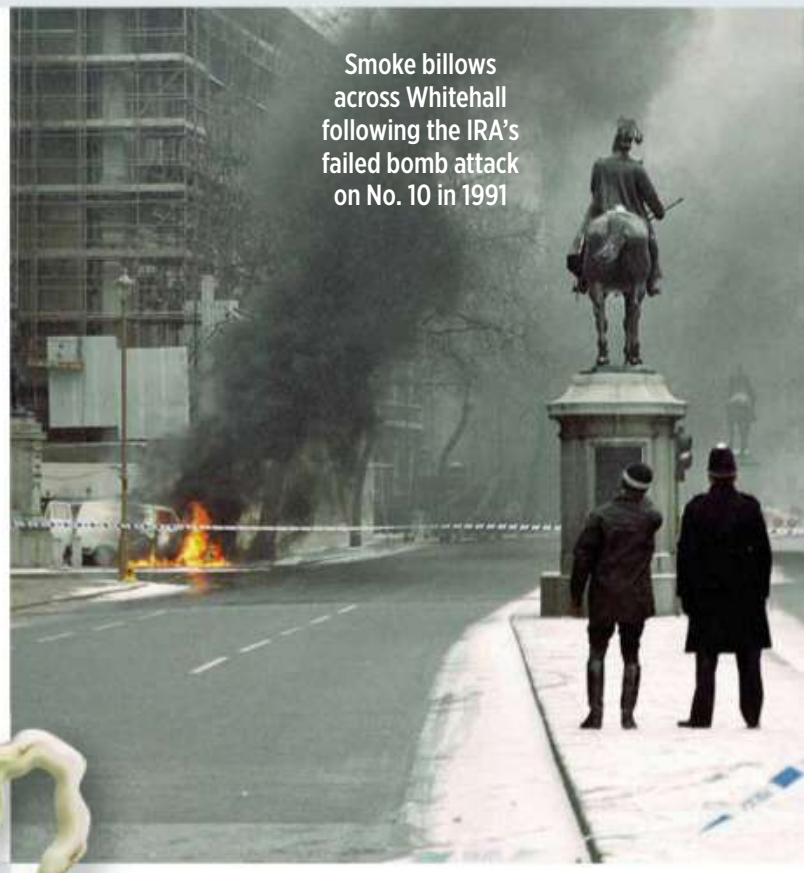
Harold Wilson, who served as prime minister between 1964–70 and 1974–76, apparently saw a spectre at No. 10

H is for... HANDOUTS

◀ Some of Downing Street's most famous visitors have been greeted and photographed on its doorstep, but during the 18th century premiership of Lord North (*pictured left*) you were more likely to find a group of poor people huddled there, as every Sunday he handed out money and food.

I is for... IRA

▶ The Irish militants targeted No. 10 on 7 February 1991. Prevented from getting into Downing Street itself by the gates installed less than two years previously, they fired their three mortar bombs from a transit van parked out on Whitehall.



Smoke billows across Whitehall following the IRA's failed bomb attack on No. 10 in 1991

J is for... JANUARY SALES

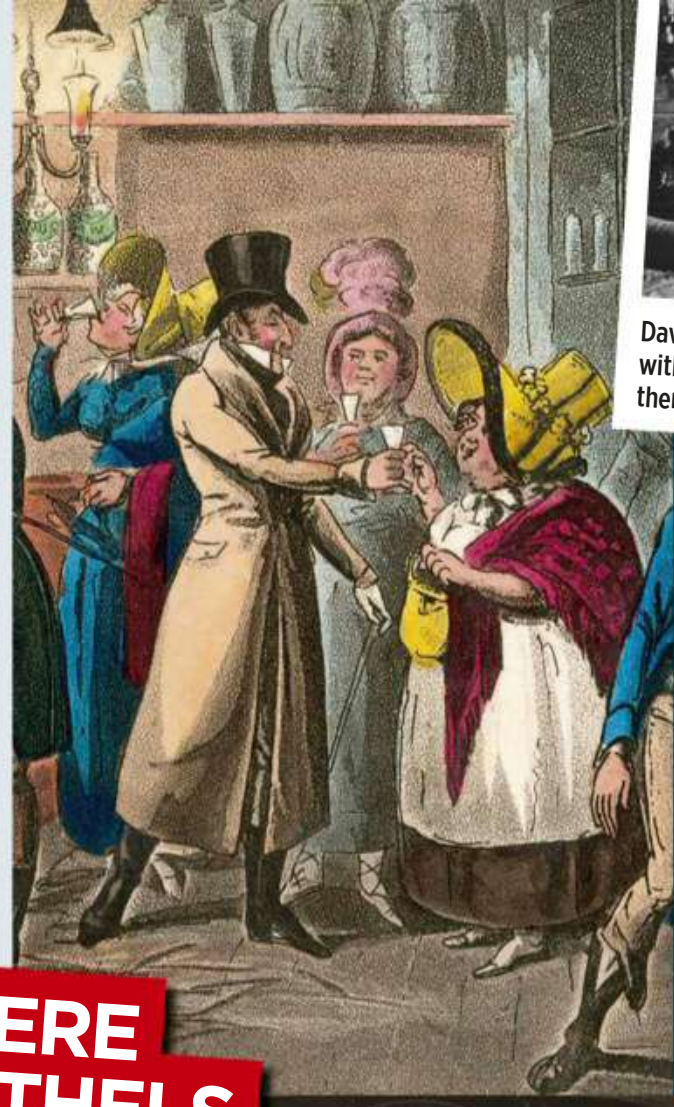
▶ When Labour's Ramsay MacDonald came to power in January 1924, he and daughter Ishbel were shocked to find that the State provided so little furniture for the large and rambling house at Downing Street, and none of the cutlery, crockery or silver necessary for official entertaining not even any bedsheets. Unlike most of his predecessors, MacDonald had no luxury country home on which to call, and the provisions of his modest house were nowhere near sufficient. Ishbel was sent to the January sales to stock up, and would later recall having to help her father by funding more items from a small personal inheritance.

K is for... KIDS

▼ We've seen several babies brought home to No. 10 this century, but many children have called it home. The house was notoriously full when Spencer Perceval shared it with his 12 offspring between 1807 and 1812, while the future Marquess of Ripon had the honour of being born at No. 10 in 1827, during his father's five-month premiership.

GETTY IMAGES X6, ALAMY X5

The area surrounding Downing Street had a seedy reputation by the 19th century, containing numerous gin parlours – much like the one shown in this picture



L is for... *LOCATION*

▶ Minutes from the Houses of Parliament, we can think of no better location for the prime minister's residence than Downing Street. It was not so in the early 1800s. By then, it was "a dingy solitary street with a dirty public house on the corner and a row of third-rate lodging houses between it and the Foreign Office" – a building which was itself dilapidated. The surrounding area was becoming seedier every year, too – by 1846 there were 170 brothels and 145 gin parlours within the vicinity. Plans to demolish the entire north-side terrace were seriously considered, but numbers 10, 11 and 12 survived.

"BY 1846 THERE WERE 170 BROTHELS WITHIN THE VICINITY OF DOWNING STREET"

David Lloyd George pictured with Frances Stevenson – by then his second wife – in 1944

M is for... *MISTRESS*

▲ Boris Johnson and Carrie Symonds might be the first unmarried couple to officially live together at No. 10, but the house has played host to many a mistress in the past, most interestingly David Lloyd George's long-term lover Frances Stevenson. As his private secretary, Frances, a capable and politically astute graduate of Royal Holloway College, was – along with his wife – at Lloyd George's side in Downing Street throughout his premiership, which lasted from 1916 to 1922.

Removal men collect Winston Churchill's possessions after his landslide election defeat to Clement Attlee in 1945

N is for... *NON-RESIDENTS*

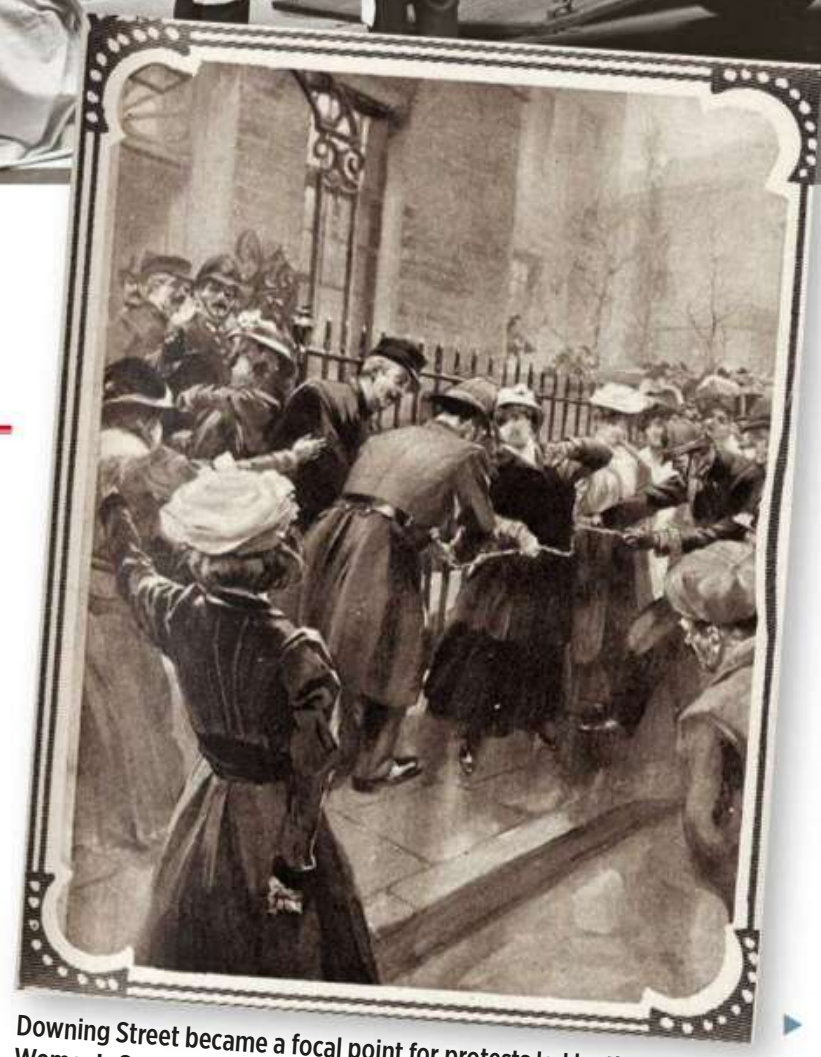
▶ It has never been a requirement for the prime minister to live at Downing Street. Many Georgian and Victorian premiers – including Lord Melbourne, Sir Robert Peel and Viscount Palmerston – preferred to remain in their own London townhouses, using No. 10 as an office, or allowing their chancellors to move in. Of the 31 men in office between 1735 and 1902, only 16 resided there. Some more recent prime ministers have elected to live in the spacious flat at No. 11.

O is for... *OPERATION*

▼ The only operation known to have been carried out at No. 10 is the removal of a facial cyst troubling William Pitt the Younger in 1786. He reportedly rebuked the surgeon for taking half-a-minute longer to perform the procedure than his estimate of six minutes.

P is for... *PROTESTERS*

▶ In the centuries before the famous gates to Downing Street arrived in 1989, protesters could – and did – march right up to the prime minister's front door: most notably the suffragettes. During the so-called 'Battle of Downing Street' on 22 November 1910, a total of 159 people (including three men) were arrested while taking part in protests against Prime Minister Herbert Asquith. The suffragettes would return to Downing Street time and again during the course of their campaign, breaking windows, chaining themselves to railings and directly confronting politicians.



Downing Street became a focal point for protests led by the Women's Social and Political Union, known as the suffragettes

Winston Churchill greets the Duke of Windsor (formerly King Edward VIII) in 1953. No. 10 had previously hosted crisis talks ahead of the king's abdication

Q is for... *QUERIES*

▲ Specifically the queries of the taxi drivers, whose utter ignorance of the location of Downing Street wearied Margot Asquith, wife of Herbert Asquith, during her residence there between 1908 and 1916. "[It] ought to be as well known in London as the Marble Arch or the Albert Memorial, but it is not," she complained.

R is for... *ROYALS*

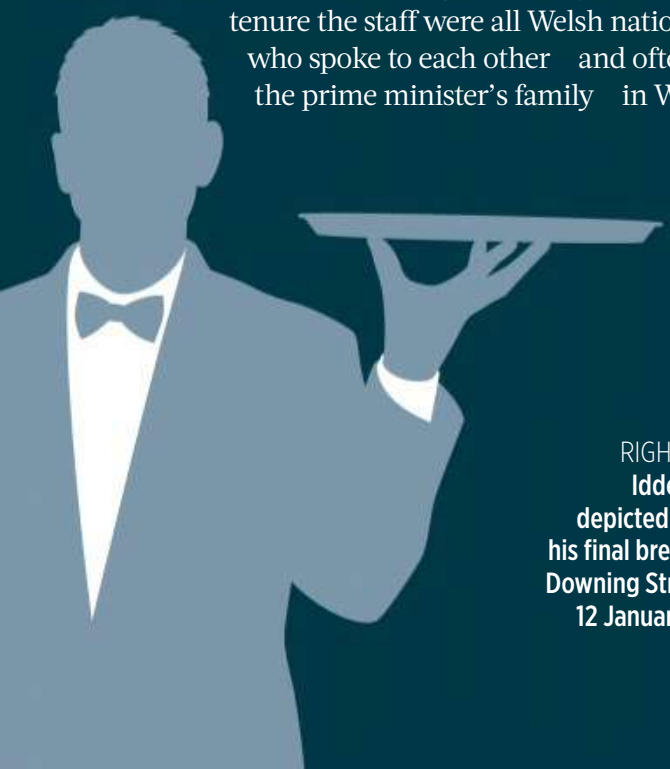
▶ Although the monarch has not attended cabinet meetings regularly since the reign of King George III, the royals have been frequent visitors to No. 10. Queen Caroline came for breakfast a week after Sir Robert Walpole moved in; Edward VIII was smuggled in for secret talks with Stanley Baldwin about his proposed marriage to Wallis Simpson; and George VI risked the air raids to dine with Winston Churchill during World War II.

"ALTHOUGH THE MONARCH NO LONGER REGULARLY ATTENDS CABINET, THE ROYALS HAVE BEEN FREQUENT VISITORS TO NO. 10"

The not-so-glamorous sight that greeted visitors to No. 10 during major renovation works in 1962

S is for... *SERVANTS*

▼ Engaging (and paying for) Downing Street's domestic staff has always been the responsibility of the tenant. During David Lloyd George's tenure the staff were all Welsh nationals, who spoke to each other and often the prime minister's family in Welsh.



RIGHT: **Lord Iddesleigh depicted taking his final breaths at Downing Street on 12 January 1887**

T is for... *TRAGEDY*

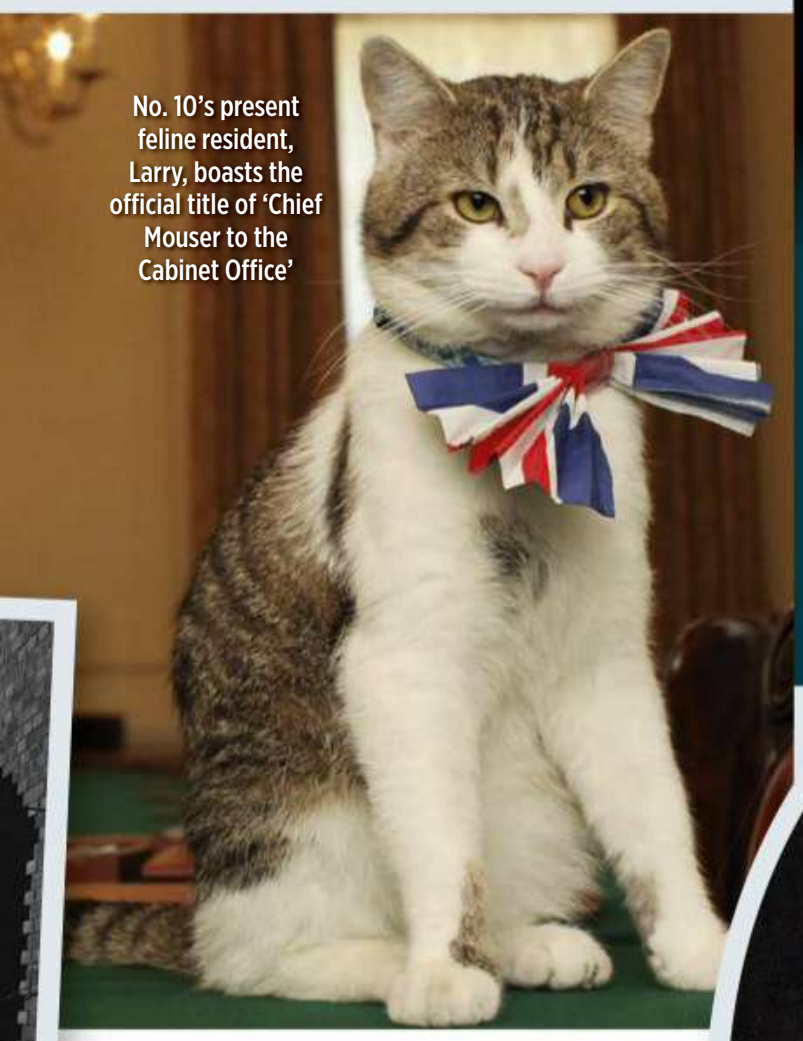
▼ Like any old property, No. 10 has seen its fair share of tragedies. Walpole's second wife Maria (his former mistress) died in her bedroom in 1738 after a miscarriage, while former foreign secretary, Lord Iddesleigh, is known to have died in the White Drawing Room after suffering a seizure on the staircase in 1887. Having endured a series of heart attacks, Sir Henry Campbell Bannerman died at the house in 1908, three weeks after his ill health had forced his resignation as prime minister.

U is for... *URGENT REPAIRS*

▲ Sited on boggy ground and cheaply constructed with shallow, ineffective foundations, Sir George Downing's terrace was not built to last. An £11,000 'Great Repair' begun in the 1780s was the first of a series of works that failed to fix the issues. Having suffered a battering in the Blitz, No. 10 was in a desperate state by the 1950s: riddled with dry rot, the risk of fire was so great a firefighter was employed full time, and there were concerns that the uneven floors might give way. Demolition was, however, rejected as an "act of impiety" and in 1960, Prime Minister Harold Macmillan moved out while the foundations were strengthened and the building renewed a project that took three years and cost over £1m.

V is for... VERMIN

▼ Mice have long stalked the corridors of No. 10, meaning that government officials have often relied on 'mousers' for help. Larry (*pictured below*) is just the latest in a long line of feline residents, including Winston Churchill's so-called 'Munich Mouser'. Churchill's nickname for the cat reflected the fact that the moggie's previous owner, Neville Chamberlain, had signed the controversial Munich Agreement in support of German appeasement.



No. 10's present feline resident, Larry, boasts the official title of 'Chief Mouser to the Cabinet Office'

Subterranean sleeping quarters at the Churchill War Rooms, located just a short distance from Downing Street

W is for... WARTIME

▲ During World War I, No. 10 was a hive of activity. In January 1917, David Lloyd George set up a group of wooden huts on the lawn (known as the 'garden suburb') in order to house extra staff. It was much quieter in World War II. Amid concerns about the house's stability, Winston Churchill was persuaded to move into a flat above the underground bunker we now know as the Churchill War Rooms. He did, however, insist on using No. 10 regularly for meetings and dinners, so certain rooms were reinforced with steel and a shelter was constructed under the house, where the prime minister was once forced to seek refuge with King George VI.

William Pitt the Younger originally moved into No. 10 while serving as chancellor, aged 23

X is for... XMAS

▼ Downing Street's Christmas tree is one of its more recent traditions, begun by Margaret Thatcher. Since 1999, it has been supplied by the winner of a competition organised by the British Christmas Tree Growers Association.

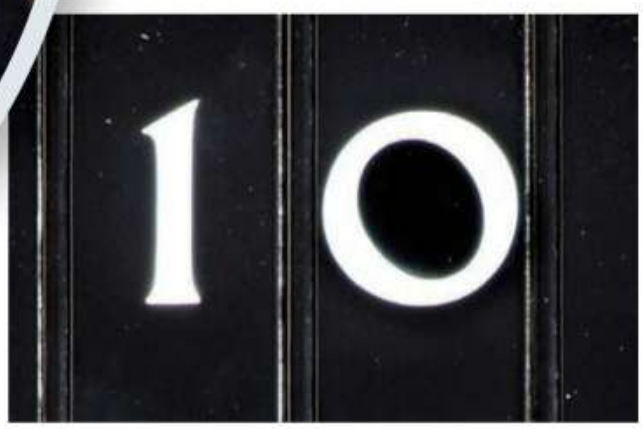
Margaret Thatcher and her husband, Denis, pose for a festive picture in 1983

Y is for... YOUTH

▲ Taking office aged 24 in 1783, William Pitt the Younger is Britain's most youthful premier to date – but also the youngest to live at No. 10, moving in as chancellor aged 23. William Ewart Gladstone was the oldest incumbent, leaving Downing Street at the age of 84.

Z is for... ZERO

▼ Theories abound as to why the zero on No. 10's front door is slightly askew. Some believe the original number was badly fixed and the position has been forever preserved in tribute; others that its angle was deliberate, replicating the tilted letter 'O' in an ancient Roman style of lettering that had been adopted as a typeface by the Ministry of Works.



FELICITY DAY is a freelance writer specialising in the history of the Georgian and Regency eras

GET HOOKED

LISTEN

BBC RADIO 4

A new series presented by Sir Anthony Seldon, *The Prime Minister at 300*, is due to air in April. See page 81 for further details

GETTY IMAGES X6, ALAMY X4

WHAT IF...

WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR HAD LOST AT HASTINGS?

There would be no Domesday Book or Bayeux Tapestry, but what else? **Jonny Wilkes** talks to historian **Marc Morris** to imagine an England where 1066 was not one of its most famous years

So much hinged on the battle of Hastings on 14 October 1066. Victory for William, duke of Normandy, ushered in the Norman Conquest and huge political, administrative, cultural, religious and social changes. It established a new royal dynasty and aristocracy. It signalled the end of the Viking Age. It restructured both government and church. It saw England bind itself more closely to Europe. It led to the Bayeux Tapestry and Domesday Book, and made 1066 the most famous date in English history.

All of that may never have happened, though, had Harold Godwinson, crowned in January 1066, bested William. Instead, Harold would have been the king who fought off two invasions in his first year. Harold had crushed the King of Norway, Harald Hardrada, at the battle of Stamford Bridge, in September 1066. "Had he gone on to defeat the Norman invasion, too, his reputation as a great warrior would have been truly legendary," says Marc Morris, historian and author of *The Norman Conquest* and *William I: England's Conqueror*. "He would be remembered as one of the greatest of English warrior kings, up there with Æthelstan and Henry V."

There were three pivotal moments that could have swung things for Harold. The first was that while, in May, he had been ready for William, stationing his army and fleet along the south coast, the invasion was delayed until late September. Had William sailed when intended, Harold would have been waiting, according to Morris. "The ease with which William landed at Pevensey and established his base camp at Hastings would have been denied to him. With an English fleet to oppose them, his ships might not have even made it to shore."

At the same time, Harold was contending with Harald Hardrada, along with his own brother Tostig, in the north. The king of Norway first defeated the English led by Earls Edwin and Morcar at the battle of Fulford on 20 September, before Harold himself met his forces at Stamford Bridge. This is the second moment, for if the northern earls had emerged victorious at Fulford, Harold would have halted his advance and headed back south to prepare for the Norman invasion. This would have given him more time and many more experienced fighters.

The final moment, of course, was Hastings itself, which could well have gone Harold's way. His shield wall held the higher ground on Senlac Hill and withstood the Norman infantry, cavalry and archers for the whole day. William's men even began to flee when they thought he had been killed, causing him to take off his helmet, show his face and rally his attack. "The fact that the battle went on from around 9am to sunset indicates that the two sides were quite evenly matched," says Morris.

"The thing is, Harold didn't really need a decisive victory, or necessarily even to kill William. Had darkness descended with no outright winner, William would have been in a difficult position with nowhere to retreat except his camp. All Harold had to do was not die, keep William penned in, and wait for him to get into logistical difficulties," claims Morris. "Had he been more cautious, Harold might easily have lived out the day and continued to wear his crown for many years to come."

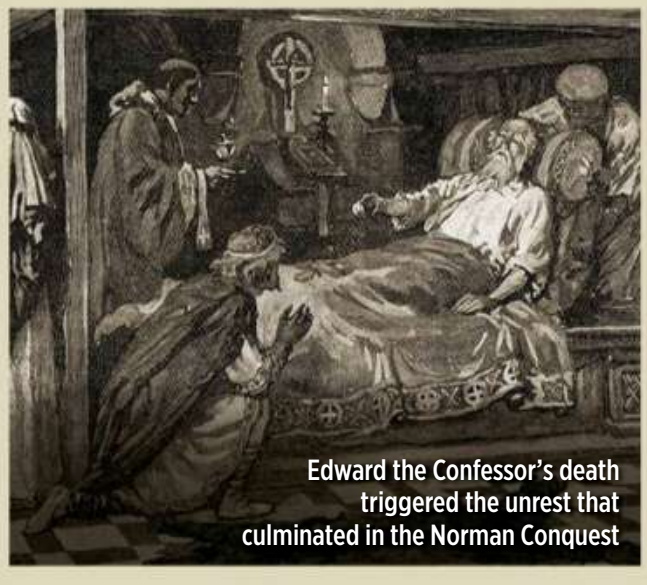
THE UNASSAILABLE KING

By ending two invasions from Norway and Normandy within a matter of weeks, Harold would have been "virtually unassailable", says Morris. "God would have been demonstrably on

IN CONTEXT

When Edward the Confessor died without a child in early 1066, the most powerful noble in the country, Harold Godwinson, was crowned, having said the dying king of England had granted him the throne on his deathbed. But William, duke of Normandy and distant relative of Edward's, declared that he had been made the heir in 1051, and started planning an invasion to assert his claim.

William landed his Norman force in September and made camp near Hastings, just as Harold was quashing another invasion by Harald Hardrada, king of Norway, and was forced to race south. On 14 October, William defeated Harold at the battle of Hastings and the Norman Conquest began. It would bring about monumental changes: replacing the aristocracy with Normans and the language with French; restructuring land ownership, the church and feudalism; introducing Romanesque architecture, chivalry and castles; and advancing England as an international power.



Edward the Confessor's death triggered the unrest that culminated in the Norman Conquest

GETTY IMAGES X2

The battle of Hastings was fought on 14 October 1066. Had Harold survived it, William might have found his position untenable because of straightforward logistics, says historian Marc Morris

his side." He wouldn't have had to secure his throne: he was already crowned, as Harold II, and had dealt with opposition in England the previous year. He would also have been in a strong position dynastically as he had two sons by his first marriage nearing adulthood, and his new queen was pregnant. There would be good reason to believe his line would carry on after him.

As for William, his death would have caused a "great deal of turbulence" regarding the duchy of Normandy, says Morris. "His eldest son, Robert, was no more than 15 possibly old enough to take personal charge without a regency, but lacking experience to govern." William had struggled for decades to consolidate his rule and any future duke would have faced the same aggression, potentially damaging Normandy's influence in the long term.

"Here's the rub: I don't think England would be greatly different today had Hastings gone the other way," says Morris. "If you look at what the Conquest changed in the short to medium term – the introduction of castles, Romanesque architecture, chivalry and the abolition of slavery, which was still widely practised in England all those changes would have happened eventually. The Conquest simply meant they happened very quickly and aggressively."

DID YOU KNOW?

KING OF THE CASTLES

Following the battle of Hastings, William the Conqueror set about building castles all over England to help secure his new throne. From only a handful before the Conquest, there were at least 500 castles by the time of his death in 1087.

"HAD HE BEEN MORE CAUTIOUS, HAROLD MIGHT HAVE LIVED OUT THE DAY AND WORN HIS CROWN FOR MANY YEARS TO COME"

That is not to say there wouldn't have been any lasting impact. There would be no Bayeux Tapestry, no Domesday Book and no sudden shift in English history. Would that mean the names of the kings that came before 1066 would be better known today? Perhaps. "The major change was language," concludes Morris. "The wholesale replacement of an English ruling elite with a new aristocracy drawn from northern France meant that for the next 200 years or so, French was the language of power."

"French loanwords entered the English language, and it evolved in ways that would otherwise not have been the case. The variety, complexity and illogicality of modern English is a direct and lasting result of the Norman victory at Hastings."

LISTEN

BBC RADIO 4

Melvyn Bragg and his guests discuss the idea that the battle of Hastings sparked years of Norman oppression for the Anglo Saxons on an episode of *In Our Time*.
bbc.co.uk/programmes/b009q7zm

NEXT MONTH

What if... The Romans had won at Teutoburg Forest?

This was Sylvia's promise to you...

A generation ago, a woman named Sylvia made a promise. As a doctor's secretary, she'd watched stroke destroy the lives of so many people. She was determined to make sure we could all live in a world where we're far less likely to lose our lives to stroke.

She kept her promise, and a gift to the Stroke Association was included in her Will. Sylvia's gift helped fund the work that made sure many more of us survive stroke now than did in her lifetime.

Sylvia changed the story for us all. Now it's our turn to change the story for those who'll come after us.

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or email legacy@stroke.org.uk

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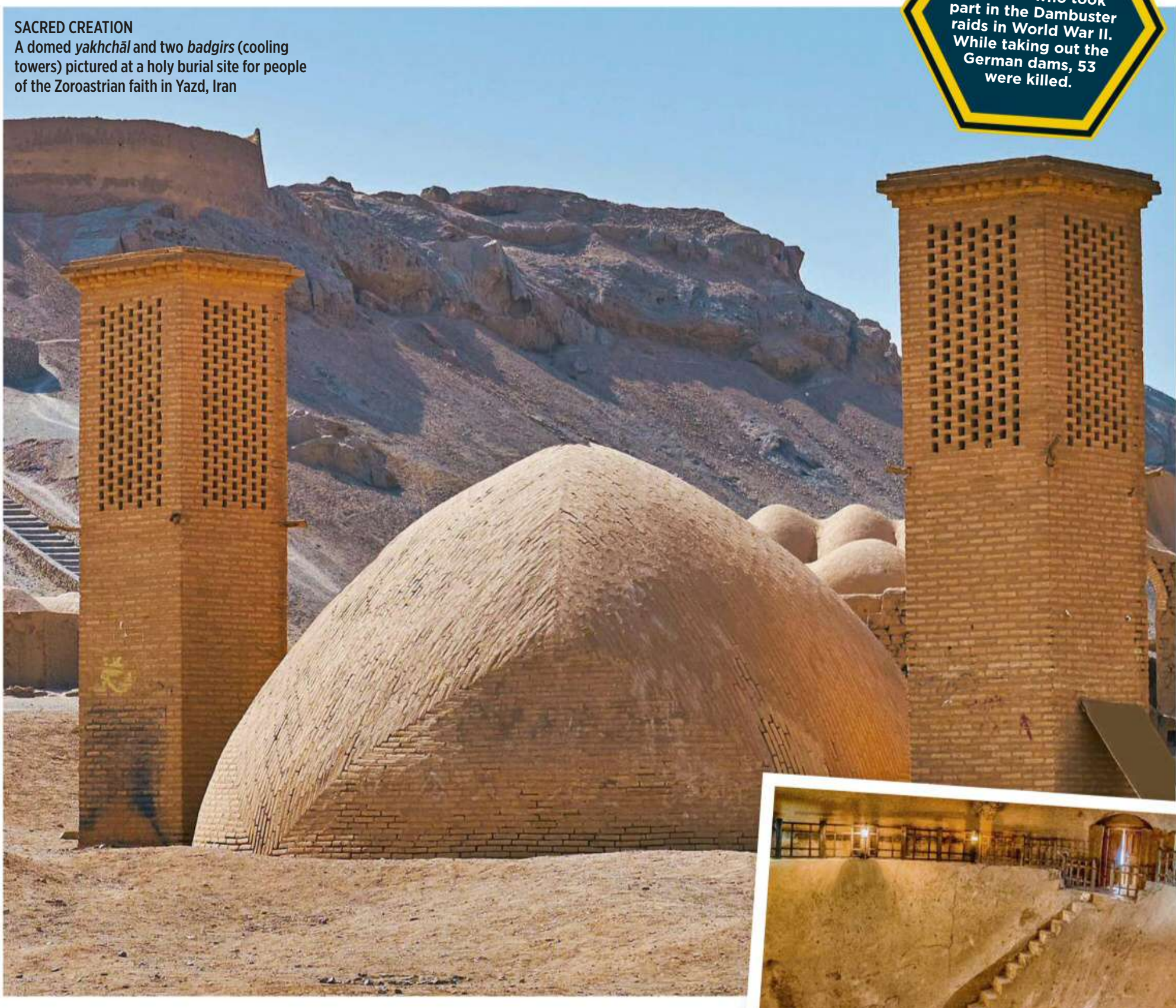
Rebuilding lives after stroke

The Stroke Association is registered as a charity in England and Wales (No 211015) and in Scotland (SC037789).
Also registered in the Isle of Man (No. 945) and Jersey (NPO 369), and operating as a charity in Northern Ireland.

Stroke Association

133
The number of crewmen who took part in the Dambuster raids in World War II. While taking out the German dams, 53 were killed.



SACRED CREATION
A domed *yakhchāl* and two *badgirs* (cooling towers) pictured at a holy burial site for people of the Zoroastrian faith in Yazd, Iran

What is a *yakhchāl*?

SHORT ANSWER **An ancient refrigerator – but don't expect it to fit in your kitchen**

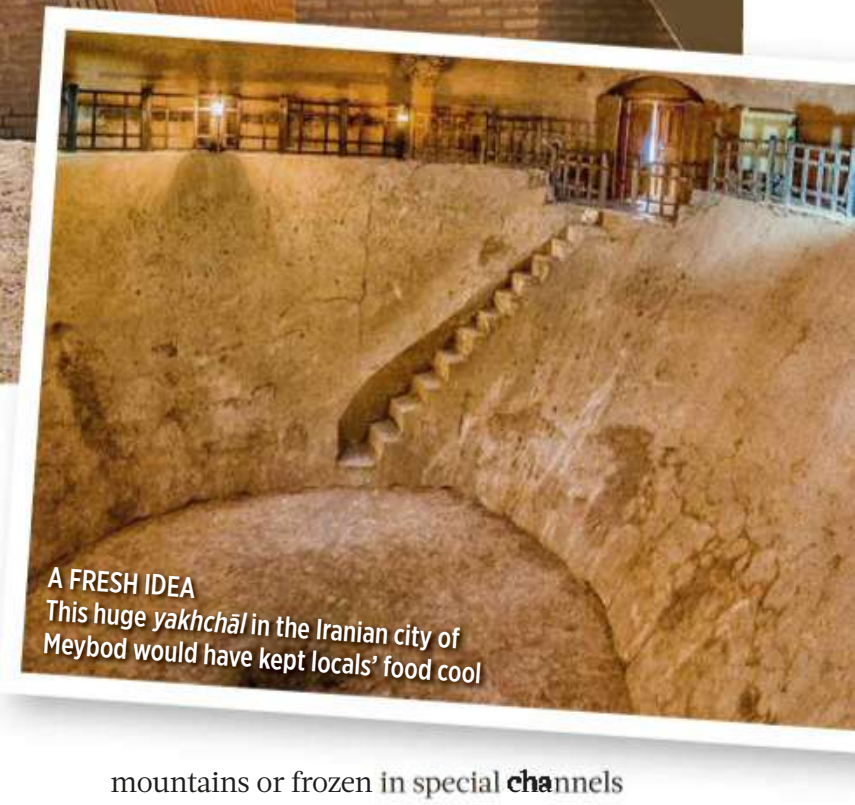
LONG ANSWER Did ancient civilisations in hot climates ever get to enjoy the benefits of ice? Well, the Persians certainly did thanks to their proto-refrigerator. By 400 BC, modern-day Iran and the surrounding countries of western and central Asia were pockmarked by large domes named *yakhchāls*.

Constructed using a heat-resistant and waterproof material called *sarooj* (a mixture of clay and lime with ashes, straw, sand, animal hair and egg whites), the *yakhchāls* contained huge underground pits, in which ice was stored all year round.

The domes themselves were designed so that hot air could escape out of a hole at the top, while attached ventilation towers, known as *badgirs*, allowed cool air to enter at the bottom and expelled any further hot air like a chimney.

The sophisticated designs of the *yakhchāls* thus gave ice – brought down from the mountains or frozen in special channels known as *qanat* – the ideal conditions for holding its solid state, even in the desert. Persians could, therefore, enjoy their ice, preserve food and make their favourite sorbet style dish, *faloodeh*.

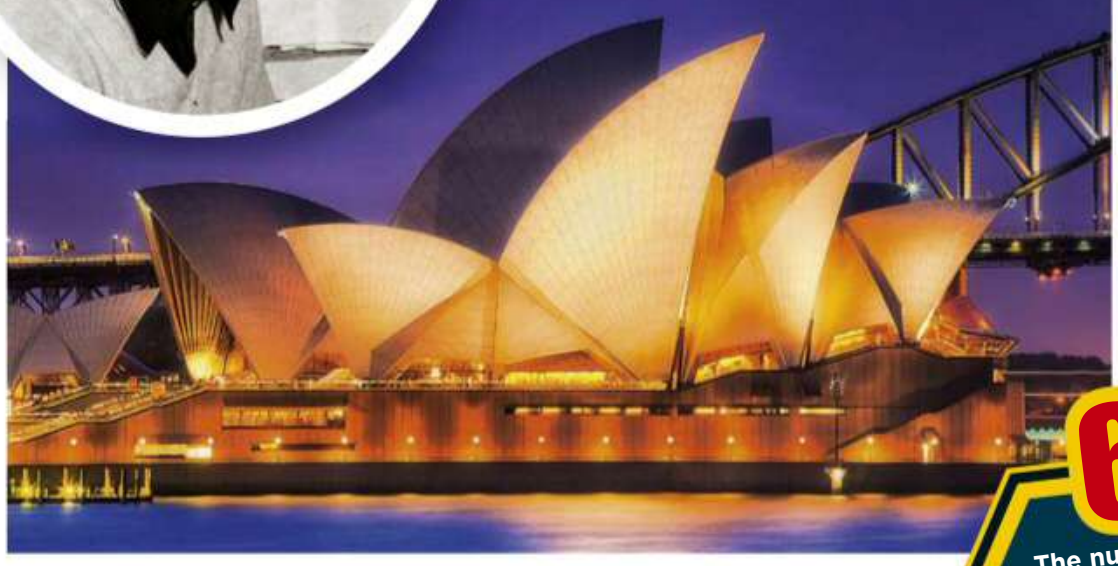
Yakhchāls were so solidly built that many still stand today – a bit like the pyramids, only cooler.



A FRESH IDEA
This huge *yakhchāl* in the Iranian city of Meybod would have kept locals' food cool

ALAMY X2

NO CURTAIN CALL
Jørn Utzon (*inset*) walked away from the Sydney Opera House project before it could be completed



Who designed the Sydney Opera House?

SHORT ANSWER A Danish architect dreamed of a structure with sails – but construction almost saw it sink

LONG ANSWER The Sydney Opera House is an icon of Australia, described in a report to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee as "one of the indisputable masterpieces of human creativity, not only in the 20th century, but in the history of humankind".

A competition to design a national opera house at Bennelong Point, in Sydney Harbour, attracted 233 entries from around the world, before being won, in January 1957, by a relatively unknown Danish architect named Jørn Utzon.

The design of sail shaped roofs was way ahead of its time so much so that construction posed endless engineering headscratchers. The longer that building went on and costs spiralled, the more that the Australian people turned off the whole idea. Utzon actually resigned from the project in 1966 and left the country, never to return again.

The opera house was only finished, under the direction of Peter Hall, in 1973 10 years late and 14 times more expensive than the original estimate.

6

The number of regions around the world, from Scotland to New Zealand, with the name 'St Kilda', despite there being no saint with that name.

What are some of the strangest rains in history?

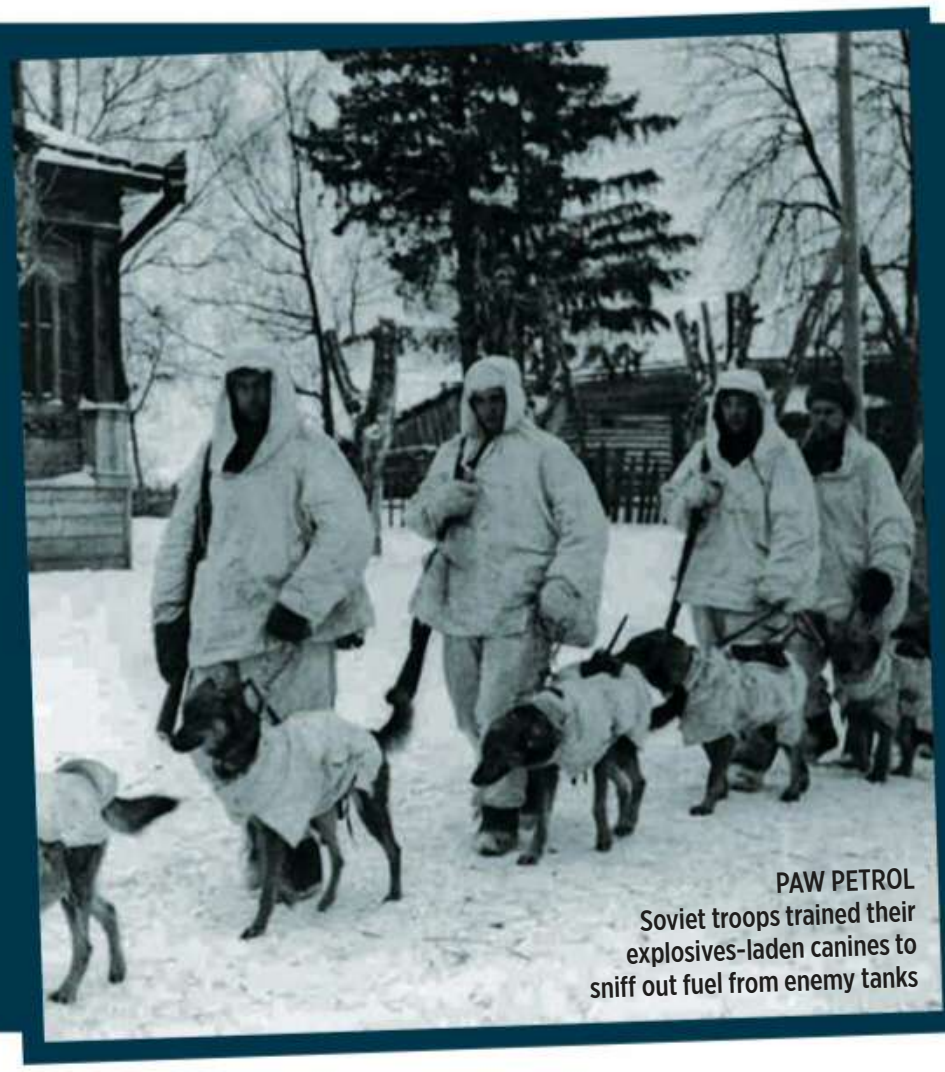
SHORT ANSWER Frogs, fish and spiders' webs have all seemingly descended from above

LONG ANSWER Who knew the idiom 'raining cats and dogs', when compared to the real things that have rained down, may not be that bizarre? Accounts of frog and fish rains actually rank as bog standard since ancient Greece to the current day. It is thought that waterspouts and wind updrafts pick up the unsuspecting creatures.

In 1881, a thunderstorm near Worcester, England, brought tonnes of periwinkles and hermit crabs plummeting to Earth, while there have been several rains in Australia, including in 1974 and 2015, of spiders' webs. Dubbed 'angel hair', they coated the land with an alien-world look – and an attack from an arachnid infestation.

The residents of Charleston, South Carolina, in 1843 perhaps believed they saw the strangest rain when they discovered a small alligator after a storm. According to the newspaper report: "The beast had a look of wonder and bewilderment about him that showed plainly enough he must have gone through a remarkable experience".

UNBE-WEAVE-ABLE
Spiders' webs cover a farm in Wagga Wagga, New South Wales



PAW PETROL
Soviet troops trained their explosives-laden canines to sniff out fuel from enemy tanks

GETTY IMAGES X3, ALAMY X3

Did Russians really use anti-tank dogs?

SHORT ANSWER Sadly, yes, they did let slip the literal dogs of war – although not successfully

LONG ANSWER When the Third Reich invaded the Soviet Union in World War II, the Soviets were not exactly well-armed with the most effective anti-tank weapons. Resorting to what they had at their disposal, they trained dogs to run under enemy tanks while wearing vests lined with explosives.

Using animals in the military was nothing new, but dog duties usually meant carrying supplies or tracking. The Pavlovian conditioning of the *hundminen*, or 'dog mines', meant starving the animals and placing food under the tanks.

In a real battle, however, the Soviets were dogged by consistent doggy problems as the kamikaze canines got too scared to run where they were supposed to. And when they did run, they would smell their way to the Soviet diesel tanks they had been trained with instead of the Germans, who used petrol.

The Soviets learned their lesson and stopped training dogs in anti-tank uses, but not until as late as 1996.

GO WEST
A mural depicting Chinese troops at the height of the Tang Dynasty – an age of unparalleled expansion

Did ancient China try to expand west?

SHORT ANSWER Their inventions and influence went further than their armies

LONG ANSWER Among the myriad legacies of ancient China, we remember the long-standing dynasties, the cultural advances and the many inventions – from gunpowder to papermaking. And while China grew from a few settlements on the Yellow and Yangtze rivers to become the fourth largest country in the world today, the expansion of the civilisation is not spoken about in the same terms as, say, Alexander the Great, the Romans or Mongols. In fact, the latter were the ones who conquered them.

Yet during the golden age of the Tang Dynasty (AD 618–907), the Chinese reached beyond the Gobi Desert, taking out the eastern and western Gokturks. The Tang soldiers got so far marching west that they met, for the first time, Arab armies heading east.

It turned out to be the last time, too. In July AD 751, at the battle of Talas River on the border of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, the Chinese were routed by the Abbasid Caliphate. Not long afterwards, a rebellion broke out back home so hopes of recovery faded. It was a slam on the brakes of China's westward expansion. Although, as the story goes, Chinese prisoners of war did teach their Arab victors how to make paper, which meant their influence continued the journey west.

DID YOU KNOW?

SHAKE, RATTLE, ROLL

US engineer George Blonsky and his wife Charlotte patented a room-sized machine in 1965 intended to help women give birth by centrifugal force. Perhaps unsurprisingly, the couple did not have a child at the time.

STAR WARS

Due to steel shortages after World War II, the Lovell Telescope at Jodrell Bank Observatory, near Manchester, had to be built using repurposed metal. To this day, gun turrets from old battleships still help the huge dish turn.

BECAUSE IT'S THERE

The working title for the Beatles album recorded in 1969 was *Everest*, but the band didn't want to travel to the Himalayas for a photo session. Instead they named it after somewhere closer: the studio's location, Abbey Road.

PACHYDERM PRESENT

In 1861, King Mongkut of Siam (Thailand) sent a collection of gifts to the new US president, Abraham Lincoln, including the offer of two elephants. Lincoln, fighting the Civil War at the time, tactfully declined.

Who was Oscar?

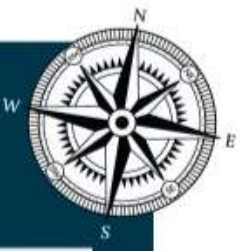
SHORT ANSWER And the winner for naming the golden statuette that moviemakers dream of winning goes to...

LONG ANSWER Officially the Academy Award of Merit, everyone knows the golden knight holding a sword and standing on a reel of film as Oscar. Cedric Gibbons, art director at movie studio Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, gets the credit for designing the statuette but not for naming it.

There are three theories. Hollywood journalist Sidney Skolsky always maintained he thought it up as a less-grandiose antidote to the pretentiousness of the award ceremony. Meanwhile, actor Bette Davis claimed she once remarked the statuette's backside resembled that of her husband, Harmon Oscar Nelson.

The most likely winner, however, is Margaret Herrick, a librarian at the Academy, who said the knight (not just his bum) looked like her uncle Oscar.

What is a tell-tale compass?



SHORT ANSWER A ship's main compass was vital, but not while in bed

LONG ANSWER In Herman Melville's 1851 magnum opus, *Moby Dick*, there is a reference to a special compass. According to the book's narrator, Ishmael, it is called a 'tell-tale' "because without going to the compass at the helm, the Captain, while below, can inform himself of the course of the ship".

The humble compass had been helping sailors for millennia, but ships in the 19th century increasingly added a tell-tale. Made to be installed upside down on the ceiling of a cabin, it enabled the captain, or one of his officers, to keep an eye on navigation – even while in bed.

NOT FOALING AROUND
Spartacus brutally dispatched his trusty steed ahead of battle

20
Of the people accused of witchcraft in Europe up until the 17th century, approximately 20 per cent were male.

Why did Spartacus kill his horse?

SHORT ANSWER A trusty steed was the first casualty of Spartacus's all-or-nothing battle. It turned out to be nothing

LONG ANSWER In AD 73, Spartacus and around 70 of his fellow slave gladiators escaped their training school/prison in Capua and inadvertently launched a mass revolt against their Roman masters. Around 90,000 joined his ranks, defeated Roman soldiers multiple times and took control of much of southern Italy. It was only after two years that the uber wealthy, prestige seeking politician Marcus Licinius Crassus eventually caught up and surrounded the slave army.

According to philosopher and esteemed biography writer Plutarch, before the decisive battle Spartacus drew his sword and killed his own horse, declaring that if his army won then there would be plenty of horses to take from Crassus's men. And if he lost, he wouldn't be needing a horse anyway.

Spartacus disappeared from the record during the battle, but the fate of 6,000 of his defeated comrades is known: Crassus had them crucified along the whole length of road from Capua to Rome.

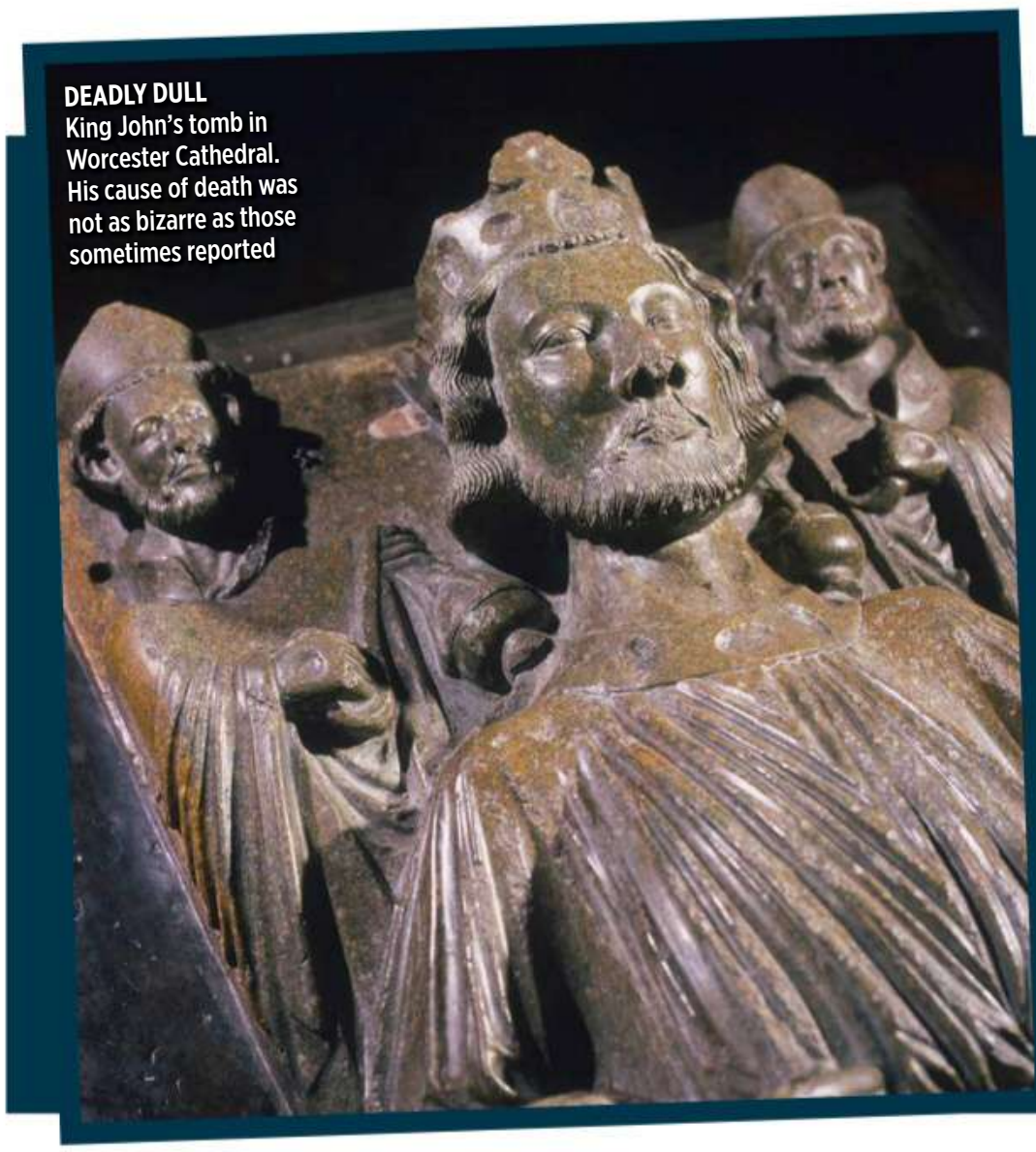
What did it mean to 'spend the dollar'?

SHORT ANSWER The only thing that could be bought with this dollar was your life

LONG ANSWER During the Cold War, US pilots were sent on risky spy missions over Soviet territory in the U-2, a plane capable of reaching 70,000 feet and equipped with state-of-the-art cameras. Faced with the possibility of torture if shot down and captured, they carried a means of suicide in case they preferred death. One such device was a silver dollar coin with a hidden pin laced with poison (*inset, below*). To 'spend the dollar' was to die rather than talk.

In 1960, Francis Gary Powers became a global name when he was shot down and publicly tried by the Soviets for espionage, having ditched the dollar. His release nearly two years later, as part of a prisoner exchange, was the basis of the Steven Spielberg movie, *Bridge of Spies*.

CHANGE FOR THE BETTER
Powers did not 'spend the dollar' and thus lived to see release from Soviet hands



DEADLY DULL
King John's tomb in Worcester Cathedral. His cause of death was not as bizarre as those sometimes reported

How did King John die?

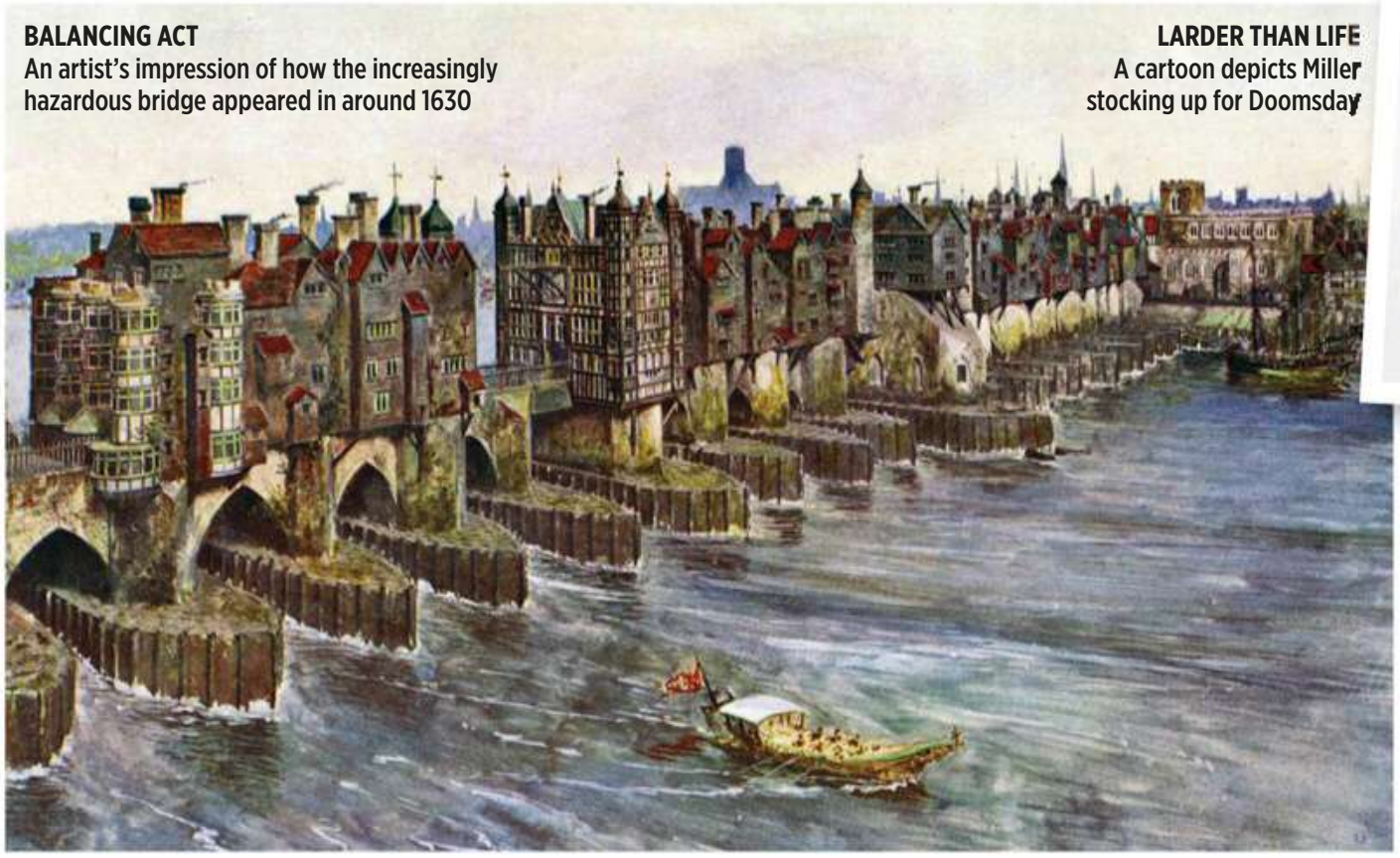
SHORT ANSWER Sorry, it wasn't poison, overeating or Robin Hood – just a delightful dose of dysentery

LONG ANSWER King John I was not popular, to say the least, when he kicked the bucket in 1216. The English barons had turned on their taxing king and forced Magna Carta on him the previous year, and followed that with a war in which they had France as an ally, no less.

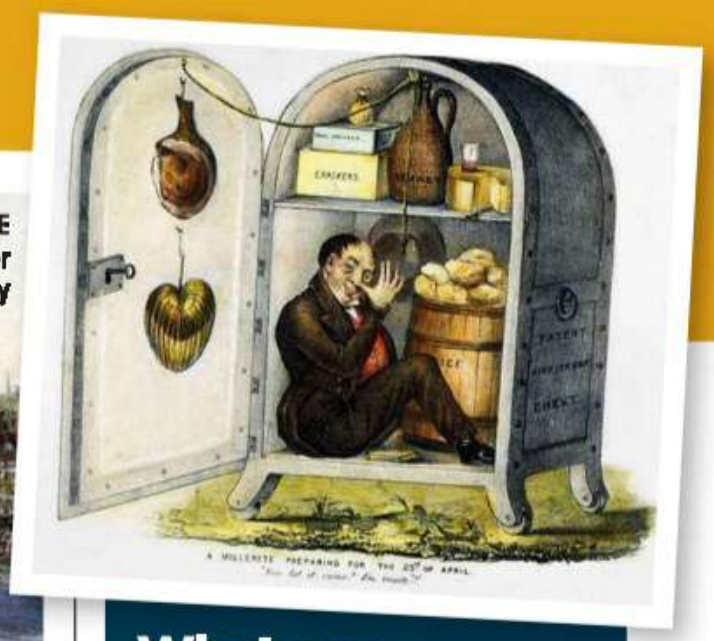
But he wasn't felled by a righteous baron in battle, though, let alone an arrow fired by Robin Hood. While on the march, John contracted dysentery and died during the night of 18 October in Newark Castle. But such a death was too tame for his critics, and rumours abounded that the king had been poisoned with the toxin of a toad, or had succumbed by overindulging on a "surfeit of peaches".

Even decades later, hatred towards him hadn't softened, with the chronicler monk Matthew Paris penning the far-from flattering epitaph: "Foul as it is, Hell itself is made fouler by the presence of John."

GETTY IMAGES X2, ALAMY X4, COURTESY OF THE INTERNATIONAL SPY MUSEUM X1



BALANCING ACT
An artist's impression of how the increasingly hazardous bridge appeared in around 1630



LARDER THAN LIFE
A cartoon depicts Miller stocking up for Doomsday

When were the houses removed from Old London Bridge?

SHORT ANSWER The last surviving homes were demolished in the 1700s after standing for several centuries – and soon the bridge was gone, too

LONG ANSWER Construction of Old London Bridge finished in 1209, after more than 30 years. It replaced the several timber structures spanning the river Thames that had come before, going back to Roman times, and soon offered not just a crossing, but handy real estate for businesses and houses. A survey in 1358 recorded 138 premises, and more kept coming.

Buildings could be as high as seven storeys and overhung both river and road, making the crossing more tunnel than bridge; a chapel, a mill and waterwheels were added, as was the grandiose Nonsuch House; and, of course, don't forget the heads on spikes. This packed in community added severe weight and proved a fire hazard, so the bridge took a battering over the centuries.

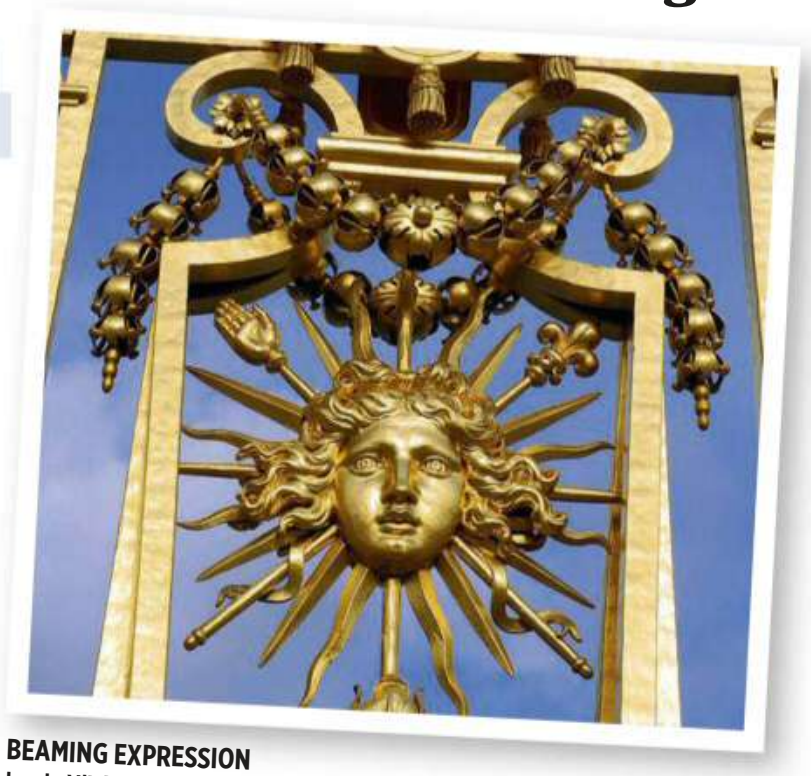
By the 18th century, piecemeal repairs were no longer enough. Major improvements were planned, and with the London Bridge Improvement Act of 1756 the first thing to go was all the structures that weren't assisting the crossing of the Thames. After more than 500 years of bridge based buildings, the demolition had been completed by 1762. Not that it actually made the bridge any more secure. A competition for designs of a completely new London Bridge was launched before the century was out.

Why was Louis XIV known as the 'Sun King'?

SHORT ANSWER France's 72-year sovereign wished to be a shining light for his people

LONG ANSWER Louis XIV sat on the throne of France for 72 years, the epitome of the absolutist monarch. He cultivated an image as the centre of everything, ruling from on high and with the touch of the divine so what better symbol to adopt as his emblem than the Sun?

As a young man, Louis performed in ballets as Apollo, Greek god of you guessed it the Sun. But nowhere was his emblem more prevalent than at his opulent palace at Versailles, shining as a reminder that while the world revolved around the Sun, France revolved around the Sun King.



BEAMING EXPRESSION
Louis XIV's Sun emblem appears on a golden gate at Versailles

What was the 'Great Disappointment'?

SHORT ANSWER

Many Americans believed the Second Coming would arrive in 1844. As you'll have noticed, it didn't happen

LONG ANSWER After poring over his Bible, New York farmer and Baptist lay preacher William Miller came up with a bold prediction in the early 1830s: Jesus Christ would return in either 1843 or 1844. This was a time of religious revival in the US, called the Second Great Awakening, so over the next decade Miller's claim took root as he gave lectures and attracted tens of thousands of supporters, or 'Millerites'.

The year 1843 came and went with no sighting of Christ, so Miller went back to the scriptures and set the official date: 22 October 1844. As that day dawned, farmers abandoned their crops, shops closed and people cast off earthly possessions as they waited, but when the Second Coming failed to happen, it understandably became known as the 'Great Disappointment'.

While disappointing, the non-event did bolster Adventists, who believed Miller got his facts wrong and still await Christ's return.

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Why haven't we seen alien life?
What is dark matter?
Does time exist?
IN THIS ISSUE
Health
Dinosaurs
IMMUNITY
THE RACE FOR A VACCINE
FOOD MYTHS BUSTED
MENTAL TOUGHNESS
MOONBASE 2030
THE UK MISSIONS LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR A PERMANENT LUNAR OUTPOST
HOW DOGS CAN HELP US LIVE HEALTHIER, LONGER LIVES
SPACE 2069
MASS EXTINCTION... CAN WE STOP IT?
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ONE TO WATCH

Ammonite is loosely based on the life of palaeontologist Mary Anning (1799–1847), who gained fame for her fossil discoveries along Dorset's Jurassic Coast

Secret love?

Ammonite / Available via streaming services from Friday 16 April

Kate Winslet (*left*) and Saoirse Ronan (*right*) star as Anning and her rumoured lover, Charlotte Murchison

In her later life, the greatest discoveries of the real life palaeontologist Mary Anning were behind her. With her health failing, her work finding fossils tailed off. As a self taught female scientist, Anning had received far less credit for her discoveries than she deserved. She had endured financial problems down the years, at one point losing all her savings.

Whether she ever had a love affair with Charlotte Murchison, wife of the famed geologist Roderick and an accomplished geologist in her own right, is a matter of speculation, although they certainly knew each other. It's this scenario that lies at the heart of *Ammonite*, a beautifully crafted new drama from director Francis Lee.

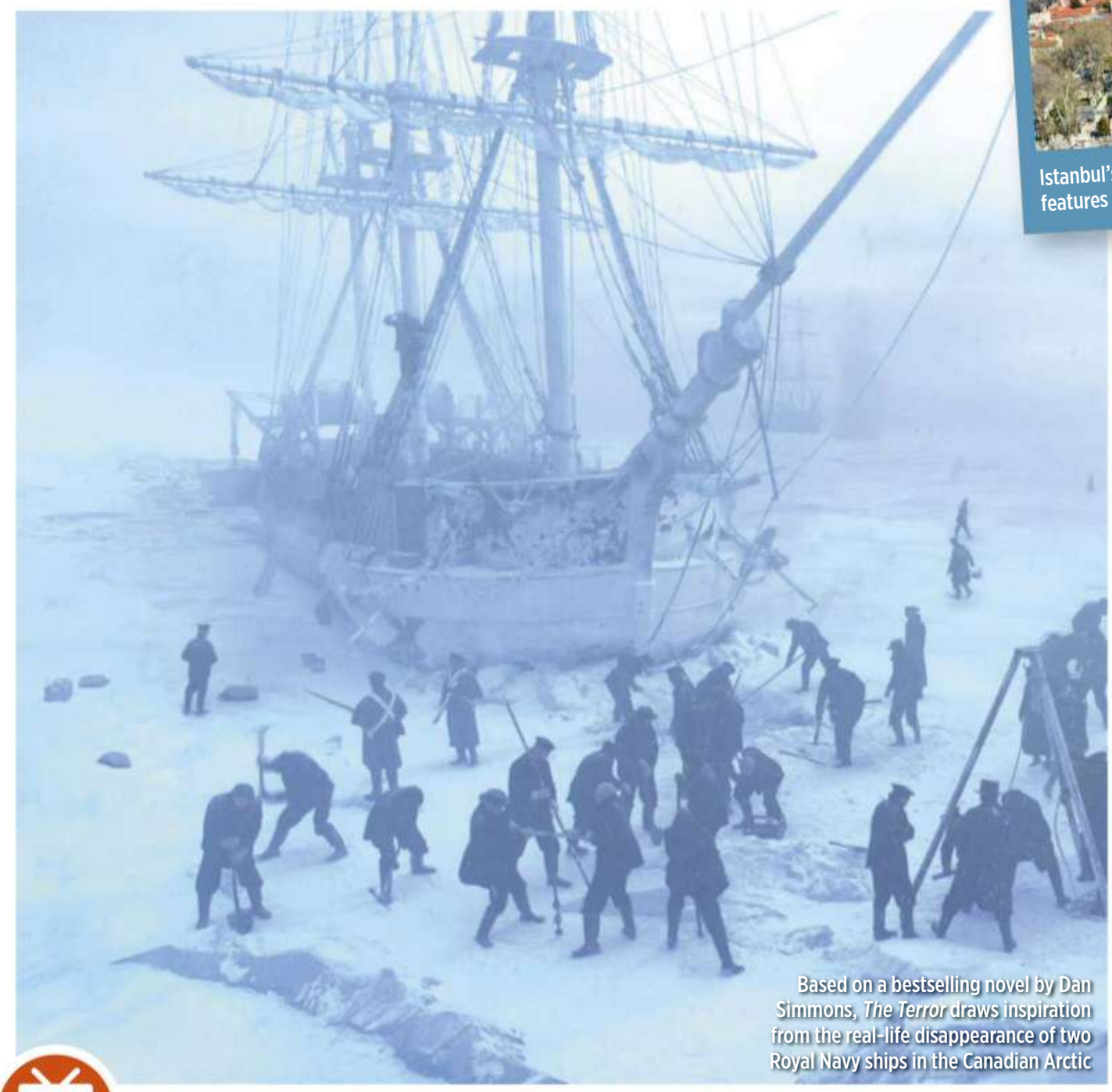
"After seeing queer history be routinely 'straightened' throughout culture, and given a historical figure [Anning] where there is no evidence whatsoever of a heterosexual relationship, is it not permissible to view that person within another context?" Lee has noted.

At the centre of the film are Kate Winslet as Anning and Saoirse Ronan as Murchison. Each, in their different ways, is struggling when we first meet them and, from different worlds and rather foisted on each other, they initially clash. Then, at first gradually, a mutual attraction grows and a passionate affair begins, its course conveyed with real subtlety and sensitivity.

It's a central story that gives Lee, who also wrote the script, plenty of opportunities to explore Victorian mores. Is the duo's affair shocking by the standards of their times? Do both have to endure sexism from men who like the sound of their own voices? Is class a huge factor in Victorian life? Unsurprisingly, the answer to all three questions is yes, but there are nuances to these questions that Lee's writing draws out.

It's also a film that looks fabulous, with Lyme Regis and the Jurassic Coast by turns foreboding and, as love blooms, luminous.

NEON X2



Based on a bestselling novel by Dan Simmons, *The Terror* draws inspiration from the real-life disappearance of two Royal Navy ships in the Canadian Arctic

Sailing into peril

The Terror / BBC Two and BBC iPlayer, March

In 1845, two Royal Navy ships, HMS *Terror* and HMS *Erebus*, headed into the waters of the Canadian Arctic. Their task was to survey and navigate the Northwest Passage, a route that had yet to be detailed but was thought to link the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. Neither ship ever returned, and it would be the 21st century before their wrecks were discovered, located beneath the waves and many kilometres apart.

So, what happened to an expedition led by Sir John Franklin out in the freezing wilderness? Down the years, we have caught tantalising glimpses of the fate of the ships and their crews. Inuit accounts talked of visiting the ships, which became trapped in ice. Artefacts have been discovered, including human remains showing grisly evidence of cannibalism. It seems likely that survivors, starving, diseased and freezing, tried to trek south overland to safety, but perished along the way.

Whether the men were ever stalked by a monstrous creature dubbed 'Tuunbaq' by indigenous people is doubtful, but this was the scenario science fiction and horror writer Dan Simmons dreamt up in his bestselling 2007 novel *The Terror*. It's a book that forms the basis of this 10-part psychological thriller of the same name.

The series features a terrific cast, including Jared Harris as Captain Francis Crozier and Tobias Menzies as Commander James Fitzjames, respectively skippers of *Terror* and *Erebus*. Ciarán Hinds stars as Franklin, while Greta Scacchi has a recurring role as his wife, Lady Jane Franklin.

Jared Harris, Ciarán Hinds and Tobias Menzies (L–R) form *The Terror*'s central cast

Istanbul's colossal Hagia Sophia features in the Sky History series

Big statements

Ancient Superstructures / Sky History, Tuesday 23 March

Large, culturally important and constructed to last, it's easy enough to see why some of the world's most famous monuments endure down the centuries. What's often less clear is how precisely our forebears solved the engineering problems inherent in creating such landmarks as, for example, the sprawling temple complex of Angkor Wat in Cambodia, that dates back to the 12th century.

The new series of *Ancient Superstructures* aims to make good this lack of information by looking at the monuments from different perspectives of scale, mixing up satellite footage and aerial views with detailed imagery. The Hagia Sophia mosque in Istanbul (*pictured above*), first built as a Christian basilica nearly 1,500 years ago, and the world's largest art museum, the Louvre in Paris, best known as home to Leonardo da Vinci's *Mona Lisa*, also feature.

GETTY X3, BBC/AMC FILM HOLDINGS LLC X2/NADAV KANDER X1

Fighting for justice

Subnormal and Black Power / BBC One and BBC Two, March

The BBC's *Small Axe* drama anthology shed new light on aspects of the black British experience. So much so that each film could easily have been transmitted alongside a documentary offering context – which makes these two programmes, based on ideas from *Small Axe* creator Steve McQueen, who acts as executive producer, especially welcome.

Subnormal (BBC One) takes its cues from *Education*. This dramatised the situation in the 1960s and 1970s, when a disproportionate number of black children were transferred from mainstream education to schools for those dubbed, in the parlance of the time, "educationally subnormal". That this was the result of unofficial policies made it no less racist. The practice ended only after the intervention of black parents, teachers and activists worked together to enforce change.

Black Power (BBC Two), which explores many of the themes in *Mangrove* – the drama about the Mangrove Nine, whose trial resulted in the first judicial acknowledgment of racist behaviour within the Metropolitan Police – looks at the work of activists in the late 1960s, founders of the UK Black Power movement.

Alongside rare footage of Martin Luther King, Malcolm X and Stokely Carmichael in Britain, it charts the work of such figures as the British Black Panther leaders Altheia Jones-LeCointe, Darcus Howe and Roy Sawh, key figures in redrawing Britain's political and cultural landscape.

Black Panther activists lead a protest in London against attempts to restore British rule on the Caribbean island of Anguilla, 1969

Look back in anger

The Nazi Next Door / BBC Radio 4, Tuesday 23 March

The Nazi Next Door delves into the story of Stanislaw Chrzanowski, who took a dark secret to his grave

Stanislaw Chrzanowski was 96 years old when he died in 2017, a keen gardener who lived in a retirement bungalow in the village of Hadley, Shropshire, and was widely known as 'Mr Stan'. His neighbours appreciated the apples he grew. Having arrived in the UK in the wake of World War II when the country desperately needed labourers, he had built a new life for himself.

But what about the life he left behind? Was Chrzanowski also a man his former neighbours in Slonim, Belarus, saw as a "butcher", a collaborator and an auxiliary policeman who personally committed war crimes at a time when the Nazis were killing as many as 10,000 people a day in the town? As journalist Nick Southall explores in a fascinating, if often chilling, documentary, this was the long-held suspicion of Chrzanowski's stepson, John Kingston.

Kingston, taken by leukaemia in 2018, compiled files and recordings of phone calls with Chrzanowski, and Southall draws extensively on this archive as he investigates why Chrzanowski was never tried for his alleged crimes. Does the official explanation, that there wasn't enough evidence to secure a conviction, stand up to scrutiny?

Leading the way

The Prime Minister at 300 / BBC Radio 4, Friday 2 April

April marks 300 years since Robert Walpole (*left*) accepted an invitation from King George I to become Britain's first ever prime minister.

In the years since Walpole, a country squire who had a reputation as a moderate, took office, the country has changed beyond recognition. But at the same time, the job of prime minister has changed radically, too, as historian Sir Anthony Seldon reveals here over three episodes.

▶▶ *Turn to page 64 for our A–Z of 10 Downing Street*

EVENTS & EXHIBITIONS

WHAT TO SEE AND WHERE TO VISIT IN THE WIDER WORLD OF HISTORY

VIRTUAL TOURS & TALKS

We've rounded up five virtual tours and talks that allow you to discover history at your leisure – and without leaving your home

SCAN THE QR CODE ON YOUR SMART DEVICE

MAIN: RMS *Titanic* was on its way to New York City when it struck an iceberg and sank in the North Atlantic

BELOW: A watch retrieved from one of the victims of the tragedy. Of the estimated 2,200 people on board the *Titanic*, less than a third survived

SCAN ME

SeaCity Museum: Titanic events

10 AND 20 APRIL, ONLINE TALKS

bit.ly/seacity_titanic

The sinking of RMS *Titanic* on the night of 14/15 April 1912 is one of the most famous maritime disasters in history. The tragedy, which claimed the lives of more than 1,500 passengers and crew travelling between Southampton and New York, has been explored in countless books and TV documentaries – not to mention James Cameron's 1997 blockbuster, *Titanic*, which scooped a total of 11 Academy Awards.

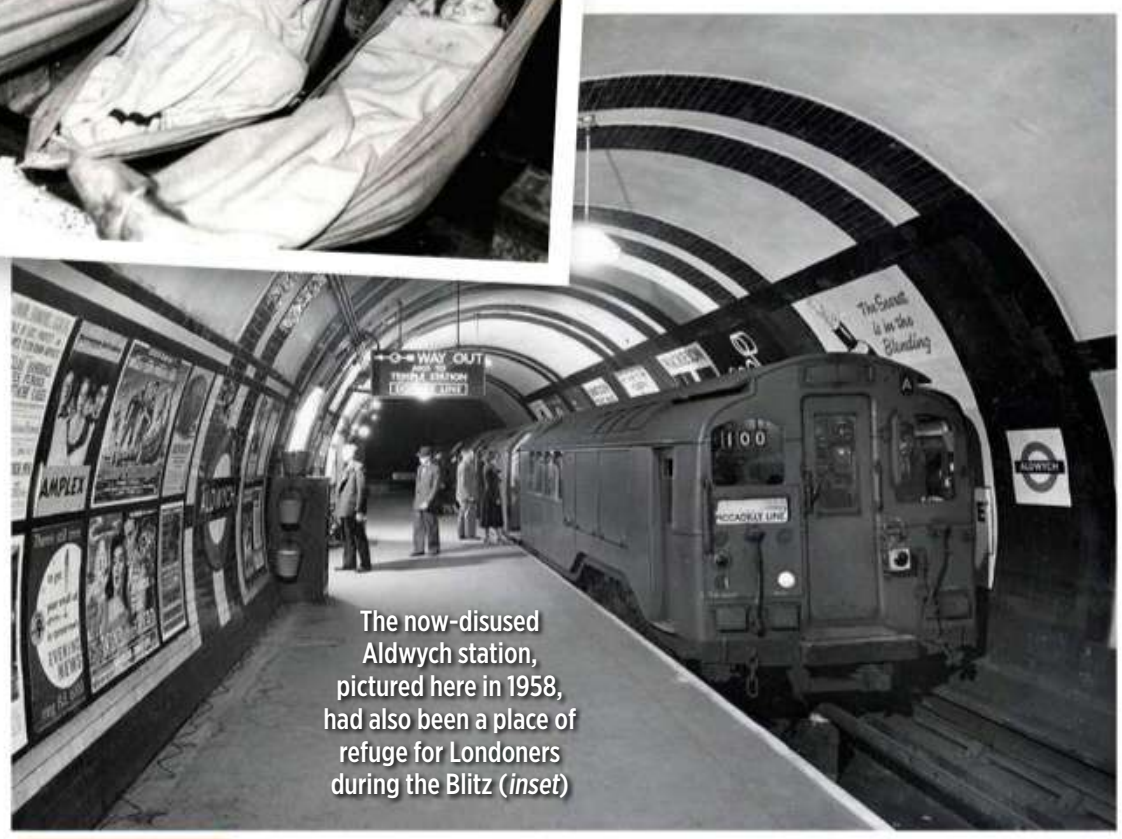
But it's a story that also forms the heart of a permanent exhibition at Southampton's SeaCity Museum, which opened its doors to the public in 2012 to mark the centenary of the sinking. With 500 local families having lost loved ones during the tragedy – many of them crew members – the tale of the passenger liner is very much intertwined with the city's heritage.

Although at the time of writing the SeaCity Museum is closed – in line with government Covid-19 restrictions – it will be hosting two Zoom talks in April, both exploring the tragedy and its impact on Southampton's residents.

The first virtual session, scheduled for 10.30am on Saturday 10 April, is specifically aimed at families and children, and will retell the events of 1912 through games, stories and objects. Tickets are priced £7 and can be purchased via the link above.

Then, on Tuesday 20 April, the museum will be hosting a talk from Jo Wren at Southampton Archives, focusing on local woman Miss Ethel Maude Newman and her involvement with the Titanic Relief Fund, which was set up in the wake of the disaster. Tickets for this session, which begins at 7pm, are available via the same link and are priced between £4.50 and £8.50.

GETTY IMAGES X3, TFL X1, JEWISH MUSEUM LONDON X1



The now-disused Aldwych station, pictured here in 1958, had also been a place of refuge for Londoners during the Blitz (*inset*)

SCAN ME

Hidden London

ONLINE TOURS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

bit.ly/hiddenlondon_virtual

For a number of years, the London Transport Museum's popular 'Hidden London' tours have allowed members of the public to venture into the capital's disused Underground stations and explore tunnels and ticket offices left frozen in time.

Although the Covid-19 pandemic has meant all physical visits have had to be suspended, history enthusiasts can still get a taste of the real thing thanks to the museum's 90-minute virtual tours, each led by an expert guide and offering never-before-seen photographs and video footage.

Tours of four different stations – Aldwych, Brompton Road, Holborn (Kingsway), and King William Street – are currently available to book via the link above, with tickets priced £20 for adults and £17.50 for concessions.

Gloucester History Festival: Spring Weekend

SCAN ME

17–18 APRIL, ONLINE FESTIVAL

bit.ly/gloucesterspringfestival

The team behind the annual Gloucester History Festival has announced a brand-new virtual offering taking place ahead of its main event in September. Although the full timetable was yet to be confirmed at the time of going to press, speakers at the Spring Weekend will include the festival's president Dr Janina Ramirez (*pictured below*), historian Katja Hoyer and journalist Tim Marshall. And if you fancy 'visiting' Gloucester itself, the festival will also be hosting an online tour of the city's cathedral.

Historian Dr Janina Ramirez (*inset*) is president of the Gloucester History Festival

Meet the Author: Alison Weir, *Katheryn Howard – The Tainted Queen*

SCAN ME

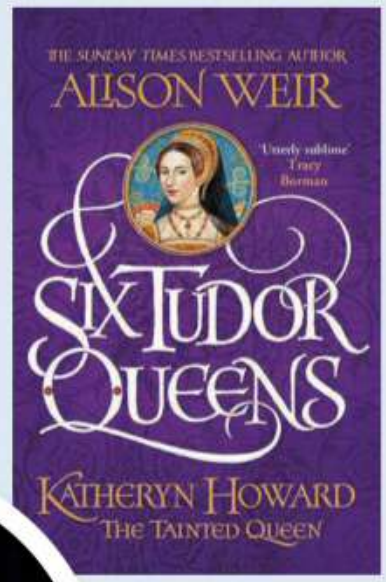
14 APRIL, ONLINE TALK

bit.ly/alisonweir_taintedqueen

In this free online talk hosted by The National Archives (TNA), bestselling author Alison Weir (*pictured below*) will discuss her recent novel, *Katheryn Howard: The Tainted Queen*, which draws inspiration from the short and tragic life of King Henry VIII's fifth wife.

In discussion with TNA's record specialists, Weir – whose books have sold more than 3 million copies worldwide – will reveal how Howard successfully managed to capture the king's heart, until her past increasingly came back to haunt her.

The event, held on Zoom, will conclude with a live Q&A with the author.



The Tainted Queen is the fifth book in Weir's Six Tudor Queens series

Service and Sacrifice: Stories from the Jewish Military Museum

SCAN ME

26 APRIL, ONLINE TOUR

bit.ly/jewish_serviceandsacrifice

On Monday 26 April, the Jewish Museum London will be hosting a virtual tour via Zoom, giving people the chance to discover its fascinating display of military artefacts from the comfort of home.

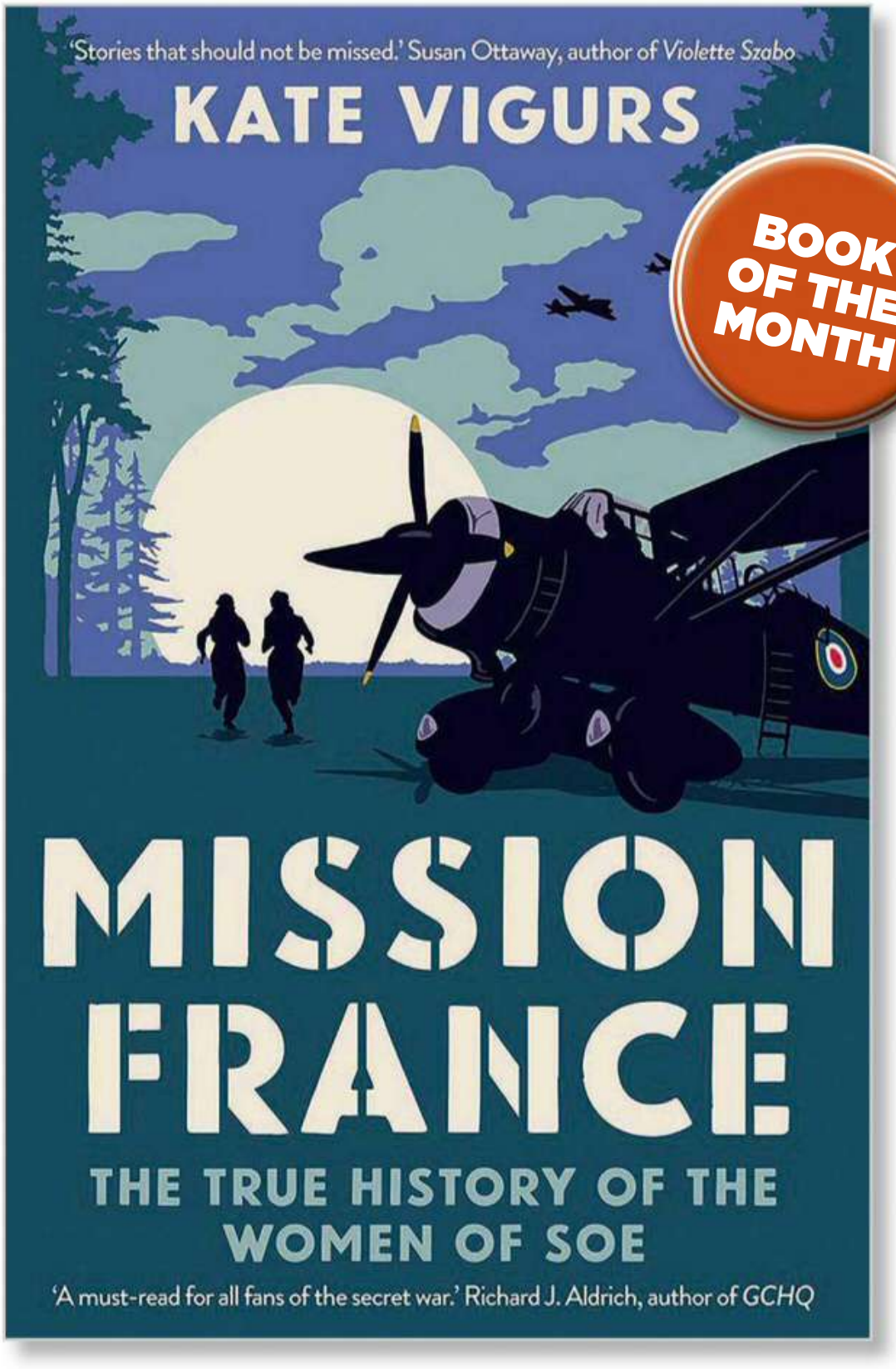
Previously held by the Jewish Military Museum until its closure in 2015, the collection includes a wide array of letters, uniforms and medals, shedding light on the experiences of Jewish men and women serving in the British armed forces since the 18th century.

Tickets for the 45-minute event, which begins at 3.30pm, are priced £6.50 each for adults and £5.50 for concessions.

The Jewish Museum London holds more than 5,000 items in its military collection

BOOKS & PODCASTS

THIS MONTH'S BEST HISTORICAL READS AND LISTENS


'Stories that should not be missed.' Susan Ottaway, author of Violette Szabo
KATE VIGURS
BOOK OF THE MONTH
MISSION FRANCE
THE TRUE HISTORY OF THE WOMEN OF SOE
'A must-read for all fans of the secret war.' Richard J. Aldrich, author of GCHQ

Mission France: The True History of the Women of SOE

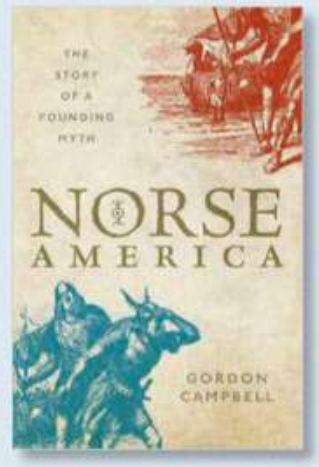
By Kate Vigurs
Yale University Press, £20, hardback, 352 pages

The World War II exploits of the Special Operations Executive (SOE) a secret organisation tasked with espionage, sabotage and aiding the resistance in occupied Europe continue to fascinate, more than 70 years on. This gripping account focuses on the SOE's 'F Section', which worked in France, and specifically the 39 women who served on the continent during the conflict. Based on new archival research and interviews, these are three dimensional tales of failure and betrayal, as well as heroism and bravery.

Norse America: The Story of a Founding Myth

By Gordon Campbell
Oxford University Press, £20, hardback, 272 pages

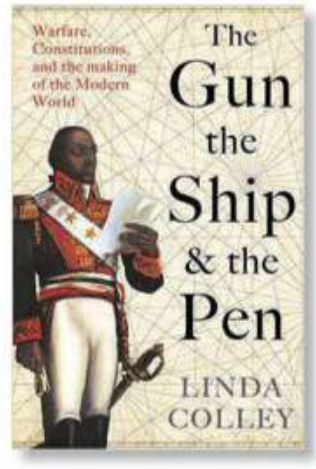
This engaging book pushes aside Christopher Columbus to consider the arrival in North America of a much more historically distant band of travellers the Vikings. Debate and disagreement still swirls regarding the extent to which Norse people actually set foot on the continent, but Gordon Campbell sets out to separate fact from fiction, sifting through a wealth of historical and archaeological evidence along the way.

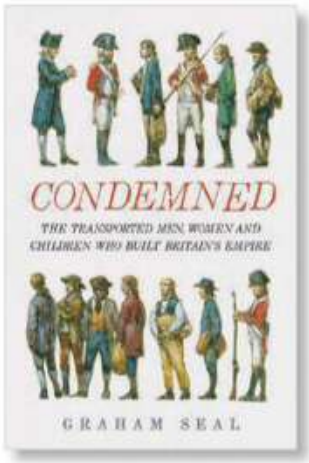


The Gun, the Ship, and the Pen: Warfare, Constitutions and the Making of the Modern World

By Linda Colley
Profile Books, £25, hardback, 512 pages

Linda Colley is one of the leading names in global history, and her latest offering chronicles how the modern world emerged not only from war but also through the penning of constitutions sets of guiding principles that defined how people should be governed. If that sounds quite esoteric, don't worry: this is a vivid take that ranges between historical destinations as diverse as 18th century Corsica to a Japan taking its first steps on the international stage. Big picture history at its best.





Condemned: The Transported Men, Women and Children who Built Britain's Empire

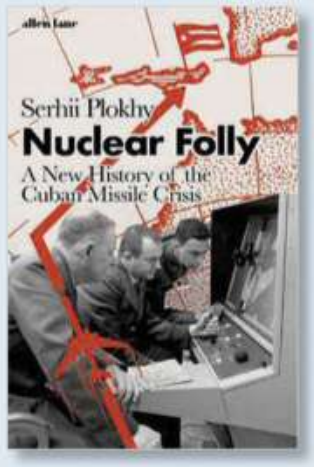
By Graham Seal
Yale University Press, £20, hardback, 256 pages

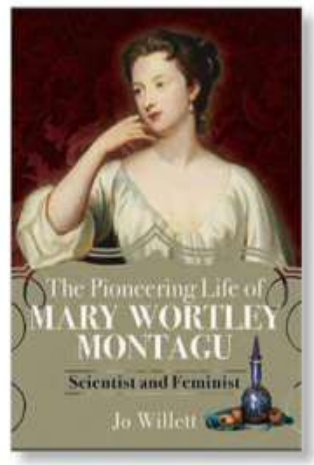
The rapid expansion of the British empire was powered by forced labour both of enslaved black people and, as this book explores, that of 'undesirables' exiled from Britain. From the harsh punishments awaiting those who committed crimes to the unwitting deportation of the powerless, these are tales of oppression and brutality. Yet, even in the face of cruelty, a distinct culture still somehow emerged.

Nuclear Folly: A New History of the Cuban Missile Crisis

By Serhii Plokhy
Allen Lane, £25, hardback, 464 pages

Autumn, 1962. The world stands on the edge, facing the real prospect of nuclear destruction. Brinkmanship between the US and the Soviet Union over the deployment of ballistic missiles has escalated into an international crisis. If either side puts a foot wrong, the results could be catastrophic. But how did the situation accelerate so quickly? This is a dramatic story, compellingly told.





The Pioneering Life of Mary Wortley Montagu: Scientist and Feminist

By Jo Willett
Pen & Sword History, £25, hardback, 232 pages

Eighteenth century writer Lady Mary Wortley Montagu offers biographers the chance to profile a courageous, forward looking woman while also exploring that most 2021 of topics: vaccination against epidemic disease. In Lady Mary's case that disease was smallpox rather than coronavirus, of course, but the tale of her efforts to promote the use of a vaccine in Britain is lent greater weight by current events. Even on her own terms, though, she's a remarkable figure who deserves to be better known.

HistoryExtra Podcast

Each month we bring you three of our favourite interviews from the HistoryExtra podcast archives...

Visit historyextra.com/podcast for new podcasts every week

THIS MONTH... three podcasts on food and drink

Medieval food

bit.ly/FoodPod93

This 'virtual lecture' explores some of the big questions of medieval food: what did people in the Middle Ages eat? Who did the cooking? What kinds of flavours were must haves on the tables of the rich and powerful? And, conversely, what did the peasantry have to make do with? Professor Chris Woolgar provides answers to these, and much more, in an episode from 2020.

A history of drunkenness

bit.ly/DrinkPod93

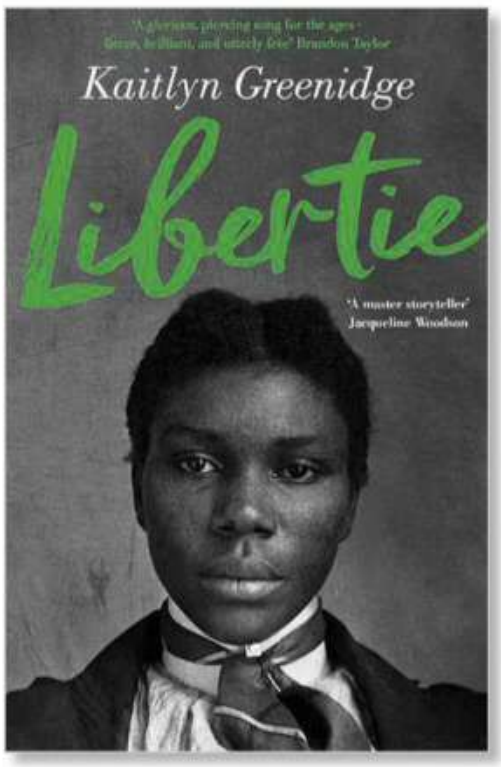
From prehistory to the illicit 'speakeasies' of the Prohibition era US and beyond, a fair proportion of human endeavour has been fuelled by alcohol. In this 2017 interview, author and historian Mark Forsyth considers how drunkenness has played a key role in everything from religion to warfare, and how societies across the globe have coped with the ensuing debauchery.

Eels and Englishness

bit.ly/EelsPod93

You're unlikely to find a more bizarre food related tale than that related in this 2020 interview with historian Dr John Wyatt Greenlee. He chronicles how the humble eel the slimy fish beloved of few gourmet diners today served not only as a culinary mainstay during the Middle Ages, but also as a key component of the economy around England. Extraordinary stuff.

HISTORICAL FICTION...



Libertie

By Kaitlyn Greenidge
Serpent's Tail, £14.99

Taking inspiration from the real life story of Dr Susan Smith McKinney Steward the first African American woman to earn a medical degree in New York state Kaitlyn Greenidge's second novel follows the experiences of a free born black girl, Libertie Sampson, growing up in Brooklyn after the American Civil War. While the protagonist's mother, Dr Cathy Sampson, wants her daughter follow in her footsteps and study medicine, Libertie isn't sure that it's the right path for her. Continually reminded that her skin is 'too dark', Libertie struggles to answer what freedom truly means.

Excerpt

The young Libertie watches in fascination as her mother tends to a runaway slave, hidden in a coffin

I saw my mother raise a man from the dead. "It still didn't help him much, my love," she told me. But I saw her do it all the same. That's how I knew she was magic.

The time I saw Mama raise a man from the dead, it was close to dusk. Mama and her nurse, Lenore, were in her office – Mama with her little greasy glasses on the tip of her nose, balancing the books, and Lenore banking the fire.

That was the rule in Mama's office – the fire was kept burning from dawn till after dinner, and we never let it go out completely. Even on the hottest days, when my linen collar stuck to the back of my neck and the belly of Lenore's apron was stained with sweat, a mess of logs and twigs was lit up down there, waiting.

When the dead man came, it was spring. I was playing on the stoop. I'd broken a stick off the mulberry bush, so young it had resisted the pull of my fist. I'd had to work for it. Once I'd wrenched it off, I stripped the bark and rubbed the wet wood underneath on the flag-stone, pressing the green into rock.

© SYREETA MCFADDEN

Q&A
Kaitlyn Greenidge

Kaitlyn is an American writer whose work has featured extensively in publications such as *Vogue* and *The New York Times*, as well as *Harper's Bazaar*, where she was recently appointed features director. Her debut novel, *We Love You, Charlie Freeman*, won the Whiting Award for Fiction in 2017.

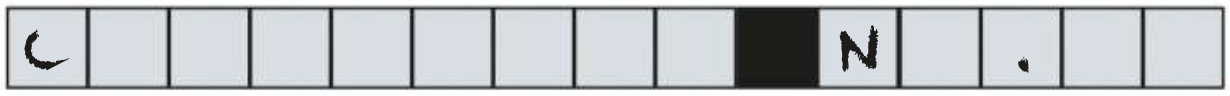
Libertie takes inspiration from the life story of Dr Susan Smith McKinney Steward (1847–1918) (*right*). What was it about her experiences that made you want to write this book?
So much black history focuses on the exceptional – the people who managed to beat all the odds. Dr Susan Smith McKinney Steward's story was a way to play with that idea – she was the first black female doctor in New York state, but it's clear she earned that distinction, in part, because she had a strong black community supporting her.

Your debut novel, *We Love You, Charlie Freeman*, was largely set in the 1990s. Was it challenging to write a story that takes place a century earlier?
My first novel actually skipped between a number of different time periods – there are some sections set in the 1990s, some in the 1920s, and others in the 1950s. However, I'd previously worked in museums that focus on 19th-century black history (such as the Weeksville Heritage Center in Brooklyn, New York City), so I already had a level of familiarity with the era.

What is your favourite work of historical fiction?
I don't really tend to make distinctions between works of 'historical fiction' and 'fiction' when I'm choosing what to read. However, in terms of novels that are set in a time period other than my own and that of the author, *The Age of Innocence* by Edith Wharton and *Tipping the Velvet* by Sarah Waters are probably my favourites – both for their attempts to provide taxonomies of very specific worlds.

CROSSWORD

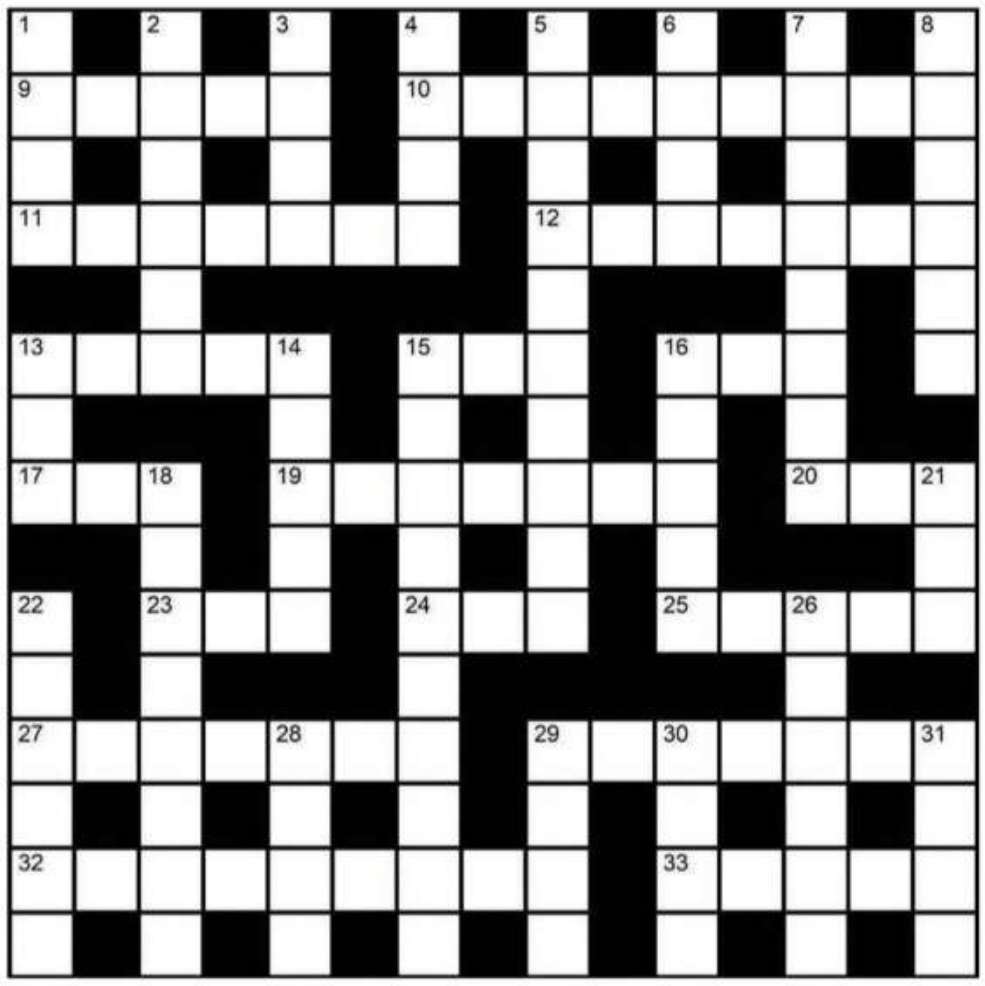
TEST YOURSELF WITH OUR HISTORICAL PUZZLE EVERY ISSUE



Test your history knowledge to solve our prize puzzle – and you could win a fantastic new book

ACROSS

9 WWII engagement of summer 1943, between German and Soviet forces (5)
10 Town on the Calder, incorporated in 1893 (9)
11 Regeneration and reform programme launched by Franklin D Roosevelt in 1933 (3,4)
12 Village in east Devon, a major medieval port (7)
13 Another name for the Wyandot people (5)
15 French city, formerly capital of the principality of Béarn (3)
16 The ___, nickname of the French Resistance agent Mathilde Carré (3)
17 Shortened name for 20th-century war waged by the US (3)
19 Billy ___ (1942–97), Scotland and Leeds United footballer (7)
20 ___ Paolo, Brazilian state, site of a 1932 uprising (3)
23 ___*!*, novel by Upton Sinclair, published in 1926–27 (3)
24 ___ Heel, traditional nickname for North Carolina (3)
25 1983 Barbra Streisand film, based on a play by Leah Napolin and Isaac Bashevis Singer (5)
27 Livestock thief, historically (7)
29 Jules ___, detective invented by Georges Simenon (1903–89) (7)
32 Dialect spoken in south-east France (9)
33 Holy ___, legendary cup or platter used by Christ (5)



Set by Richard Smyth

DOWN

1 Work of art, in certain Christian churches (4)
2 Samuel Smith or Joshua Tetley, perhaps (6)
3 Scottish island with which Flora MacDonald is associated (4)
4 Brother of Cain, biblically (4)
5 US singer born Anna Mae Bullock in 1939 (4,6)
6 ___*!*, 1954 film about giant ants (4)
7 First Roman emperor (8)
8/31 Agriculture pioneer (1674–1741), inventor of a horse-drawn seed drill (6,4)
13 Attila (d.453), for one (3)
14 Alfred ___ (1833–96), Swedish inventor, industrialist and benefactor (5)
15 Unincorporated US territory in the Caribbean (6,4)
16 George ___, Archbishop of Canterbury from 1991 to 2002 (5)
18 Slang term for the Apollo space programme (4,4)
21 Grey ___, name adopted by the conservationist Archibald Belaney (1888–1938) (3)
22 "The lamps are going out all over ___" – Sir Edward Grey, 1914 (6)
26 Odo of Bayeux or William the Conqueror, for example (6)
28 Richard ___ (1905–36), murderer tried alongside Nathan Leopold in 1924 (4)
29 Empire of west Africa, founded by Sundiata Keita (4)
30 Villain in *Othello* (1603) (4)
31 See 8 down

CHANCE TO WIN

The Bare Essentials: Kings and Queens
by Chris Kent Glasby

HOW TO ENTER

Post entries to **BBC History Revealed, April 2021 Crossword, PO Box 501, Leicester, LE94 0AA** or email them to **april2021@historyrevealedcomps.co.uk** by noon on **1 May 2021**.

By entering, participants agree to be bound by the terms and conditions shown in the box below. Immediate Media Co Ltd, publishers of *BBC History Revealed*, would love to keep you informed by post or telephone of special offers and promotions from the Immediate Media Co Group. Please write 'Do Not Contact IMC' if you prefer not to receive such information by post or phone. If you would like to receive this information by email, please write your email address on the entry. You may unsubscribe from receiving these messages at any time. For more about the Immediate Privacy Policy, see the box below.
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SOLUTION Nº 91

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LETTERS

WOMEN AT WAR
LAND ARMY
WOMEN AT WAR
With many of Britain's men away fighting, women on the home front had to take charge
CRACKING THE CODE
Some women's wartime work literally saved lives
"Land Girls – working alongside men – were often subjected to taunts and insults"
SNOBBERY IN THE RANKS
RETURN TO THE STATUS QUO
NEW OPPORTUNITIES
DID YOU KNOW?
BEHIND ENEMY LINES
'We could do with thousands more like you..'
JOIN THE WOMEN'S LAND ARMY

IRELAND'S ELIZABETHAN PIRATE QUEEN
AMERICA'S WWII GHOST ARMY
BBC
HISTORY REVEALED
YOUR ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO THE
HISTORY OF MEDICINE
Death, disease and discovery – from ancient Greece to modern times
WHAT IF... JULIUS CAESAR HADN'T BEEN ASSASSINATED?
PLUS The 19th-century Mormon migration
In a Nutshell: The IRA

ABOVE: **Women played a vital role on the home front in WWII**

RIGHT: **Our Essential Guide to the History of Medicine spanned centuries of breakthroughs**

UNSUNG HEROES

I'm a regular subscriber to the magazine but have sadly fallen behind in reading the last couple of issues. I have finished reading the Christmas issue and was drawn to the section on the World War II home front, particularly the part about women in the war. There was a caption about Yvonne Cormeau, who was a wireless operator behind the lines for SOE in France. All the women who spied for the Allies were incredibly brave, but for me the most amazing was Noor Inayat Khan. Her story is so inspiring that it moved me to tears. I just can't imagine what it was like for her to roam around Paris putting her life in danger every day. Sadly it does not have a happy ending, but I hope her story and more like it can be told in *BBC History Revealed*. The world needs to know about the unsung heroes of World War II and their stories.

Christopher Harris, by email

HAPPY READER

I write to commend you on your engaging, enlightening and entertaining magazine – I relish reading it! As a layman and Yank, I subscribe to over a dozen notable printed magazines covering history and archaeology. Of them all, your publication is superior. And I so prefer your lovely printed paper over pixels on a computer screen. The varied subjects you offer are vividly conveyed at just the right lengths, with visuals stunning and illustrative throughout your splendid, large-format with its imaginative layout. I so enjoy the range over time and place and civilisations captured in every issue. The features are brilliant – everything from lengthy yet concise expositions, to tidbits, to book reviews and even a crossword.

I write this from Maui, as I'm on holiday in paradise during the pandemic – I brought along several back issues I had not yet perused and was riveted by the February 2019 issue (Tut's mask on cover). It was as impactful as if it had been published only yesterday. Every issue is a timeless and endlessly engaging education. Bravo!

Montgomery Kersten, by email

MORE MEDICAL BREAKTHROUGHS

I feel the Essential Guide to the History of Medicine (February 2021) skirted around some of the greatest fundamentals in medical progress: the ability to control pain, infection and physiological disruption in surgery. This could be likened to a three-legged stool on which modern surgery squarely sits: control of pain, infection and physiology. If just one of those legs is broken, the whole comes crashing down with disastrous consequences. To this end, I'd like to put forward individuals whose novel ideas were introduced, adopted and subsequently improved upon.

In the field of anaesthesia, the honour undoubtedly goes to American dentist William Morton, who gave the first successful public demonstration of ether anaesthesia in Boston, Massachusetts, on 16 October 1846. This revolutionary idea spread rapidly around the world and went to London's University College Hospital on 21 December that year, when surgeon Robert Liston operated on a patient under ether anaesthetic. Liston was heard to say: "This Yankee dodge [ether] beats mesmerism [hypnosis] hollow".

With regards to physiological control, there is no lightbulb moment where any single individual stands out, mainly because physiology universally governs every bodily function. Many have made significant contributions, but three landmarks for me would be the introduction of intravenous fluids, probably in around 1884; Austrian-born American biologist Karl Landsteiner who discovered blood groups in 1901; and Glasgow neurosurgeon William Macewen who, in 1878, reported the first elective endotracheal intubation in surgery.

The essential guide mentioned Robert Liston's speed as a surgeon, citing it once resulted in two deaths. To this must be added a third, when an overenthusiastic observer pressing in close was so overcome by emotion he collapsed and died from either a heart attack or stroke. It is a commonly held joking assertion that this was the only operation to have a 300 per cent mortality.

John Snow, famed for his meticulous investigations and who ended the cholera epidemic in 1854, was the first modern epidemiologist. He was also the anaesthetist who administered the "blessed chloroform" to Queen Victoria during childbirth.

From modern anaesthesia come the disciplines of intensive care, early management of severe trauma and pain palliation.

Dr Mervyn Cobcroft,
Brisbane, Australia

Editor replies:
Many thanks for your letter. Our Essential Guide to the History of

GETTY IMAGES X2

American dentist William Morton gives the first public demonstration of ether anaesthesia in Boston, 1846

Medicine was a whistle-stop tour of centuries of medical history, during which there have been countless breakthroughs and life-changing events – too many to squeeze into 32 pages, unfortunately. But it's a topic we'll no doubt revisit again, and I hope readers felt inspired by the guide to investigate the subject further, either through our recommended reading at the end of the guide, or via other mediums.

CROSSWORD WINNERS

The three lucky winners of the crossword from issue 90 are:

S Buchalter, Altrincham
H Cullen, Loanhead
S Kirk, Chatham

Congratulations! You've each won a copy of *Queens of the Crusades* by Alison Weir.

Please note, there will be a delay in posting your prize due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

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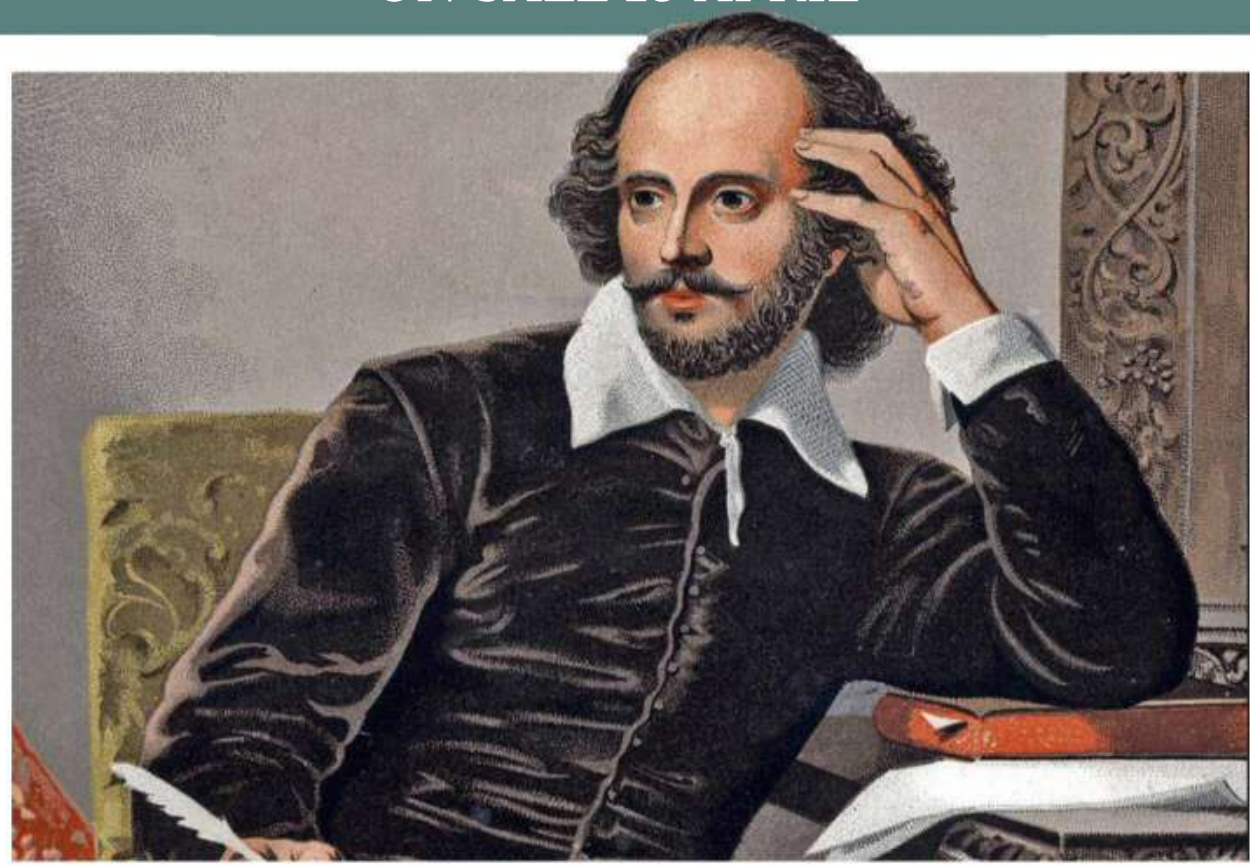

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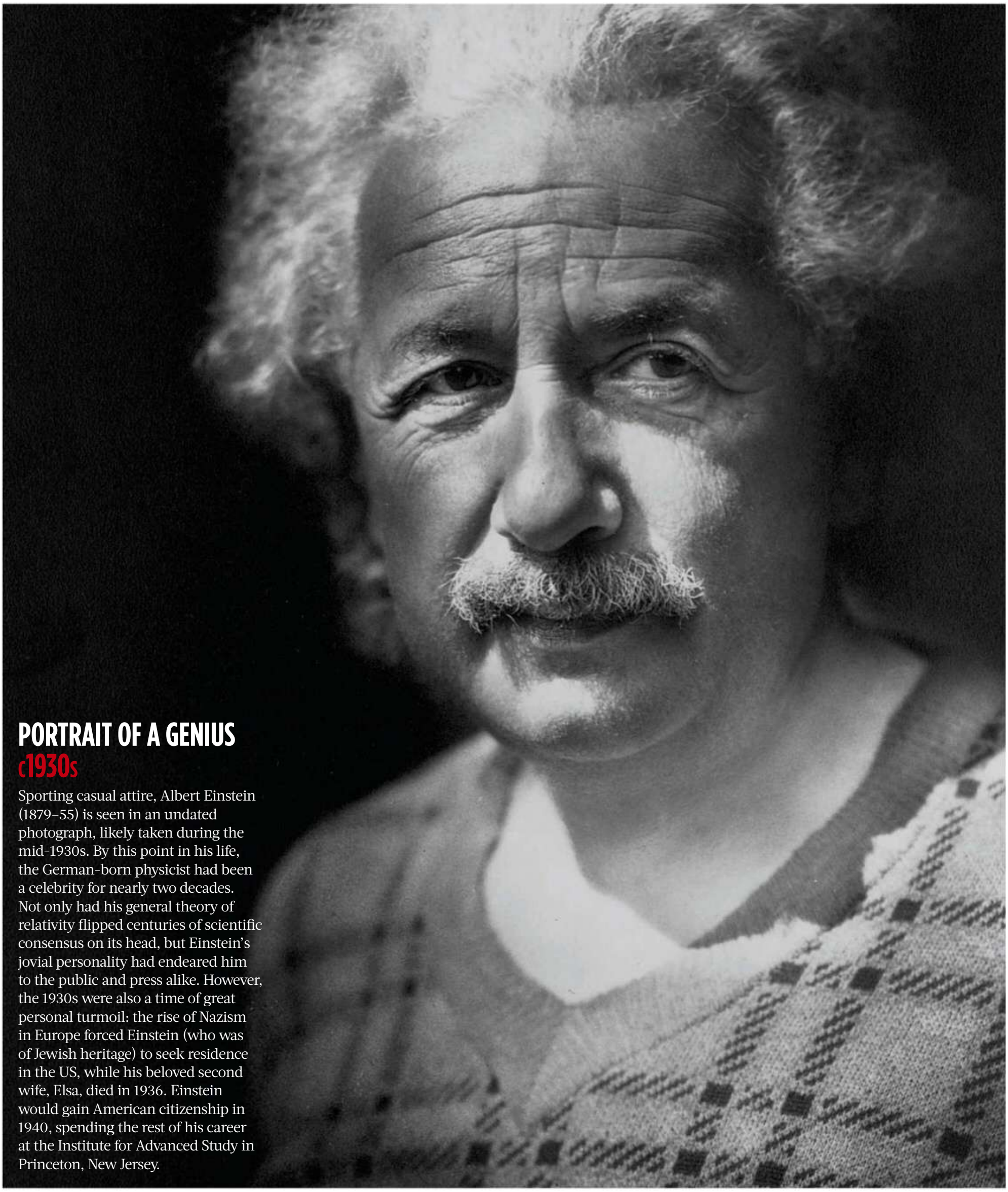

PORTRAIT OF A GENIUS

c1930s

Sporting casual attire, Albert Einstein (1879–55) is seen in an undated photograph, likely taken during the mid-1930s. By this point in his life, the German-born physicist had been a celebrity for nearly two decades. Not only had his general theory of relativity flipped centuries of scientific consensus on its head, but Einstein's jovial personality had endeared him to the public and press alike. However, the 1930s were also a time of great personal turmoil: the rise of Nazism in Europe forced Einstein (who was of Jewish heritage) to seek residence in the US, while his beloved second wife, Elsa, died in 1936. Einstein would gain American citizenship in 1940, spending the rest of his career at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey.

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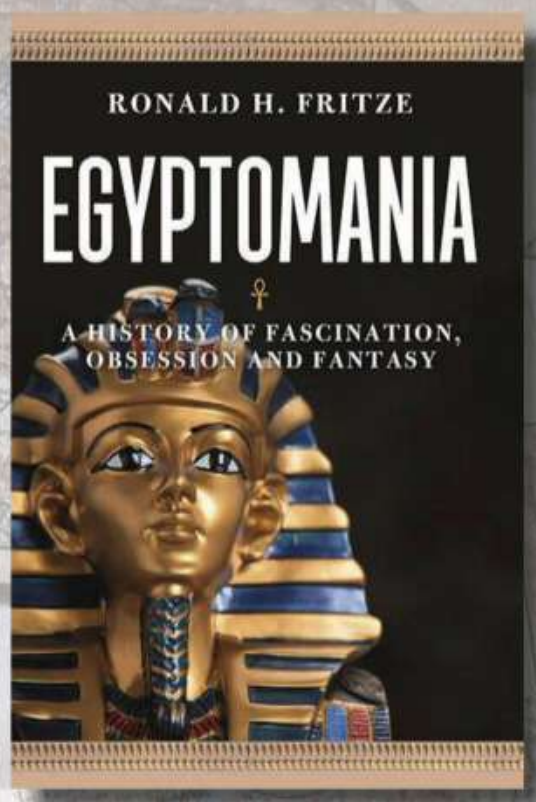

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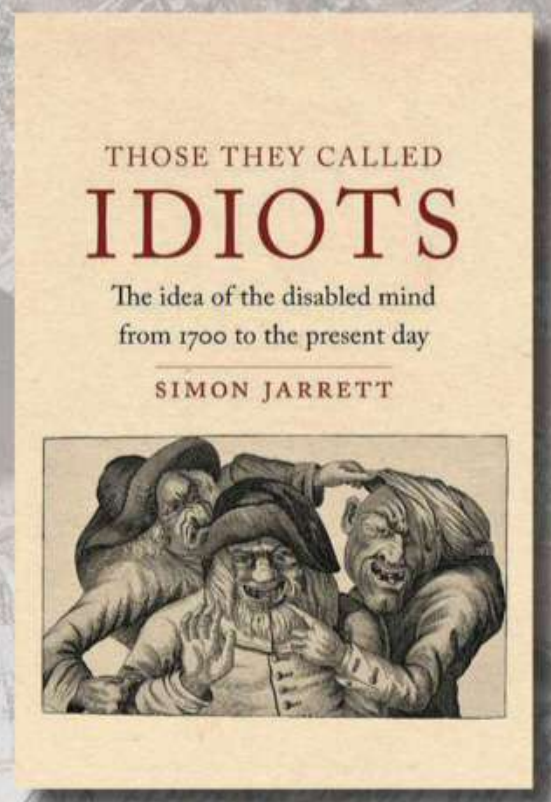

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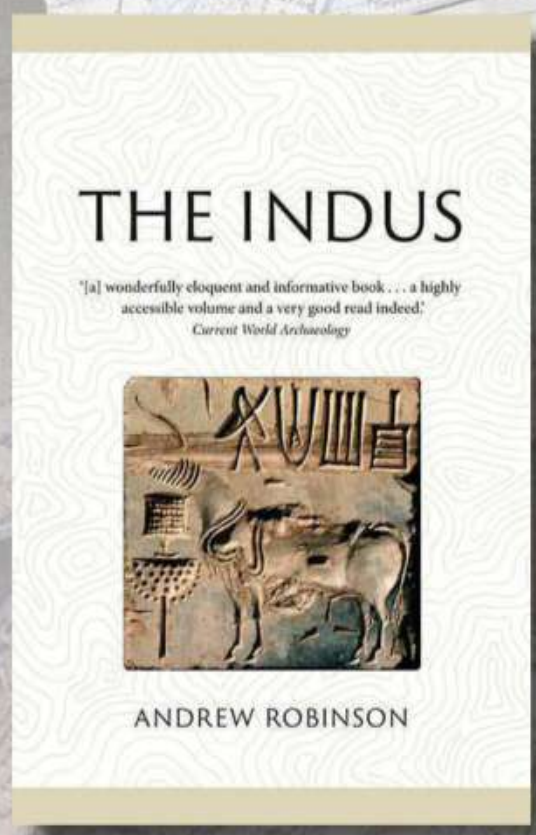
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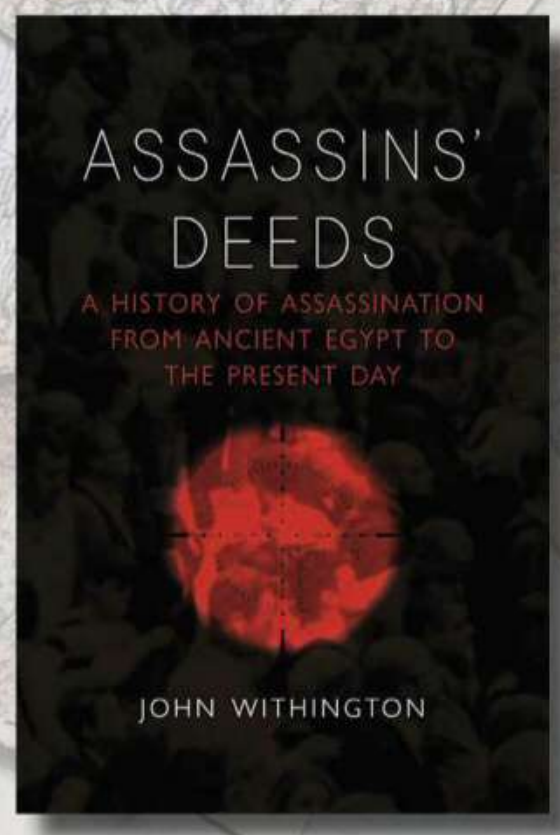

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